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THE JOURNAL OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

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EDITORIAL NOTE

The President of India is elected for a term of five years by the members of an electoral college consisting of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament and the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States. Consequent upon the thirteenth election to the office of the President held on 19 July 2007, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil was declared elected as the President of the Republic on 21 July 2007. Smt. Patil made oath of office administered by the Chief Justice of India, Justice K.G. Balakrishnan in the presence of dignitaries at a solemn function held in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 25 July 2007. The President Smt. Patil then addressed the distinguished gathering present on the occasion in the Central Hall. We join the nation in felicitating the newly elected President and the first woman to hold the highest constitutional office of the land. We include in this issue the text of the Address delivered by Smt. Patil on her assumption of office as the President of India and a Short Note on the thirteenth Presidential Election.

A function was organised in the Central Hall of Parliament to bid farewell to the outgoing President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on 23 July 2007. On behalf of all the members of Parliament, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Somnath Chatterjee presented a Farewell Address to the President. The Speaker also presented him a casket containing a scroll signed by all the members of Parliament. The outgoing President then addressed the distinguished gathering. We reproduce in this issue the text of the Farewell Address presented to Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam by the members of Parliament and the Address delivered by the outgoing President.

The Vice-President, who is the *ex-officio* Chairman of Rajya Sabha, is elected by members of an electoral college consisting of members of both the Houses of Parliament, by secret ballot, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote. On 10 August 2007, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, an eminent academician, seasoned diplomat, former Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University and former Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities, was elected as the thirteenth Vice-President of India and was administered the oath of office by the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil on 11 August 2007. We, on behalf of the nation, extend our warm wishes to the newly elected Vice-President

on assuming the second highest constitutional office of the land. We include in this issue a Short Note on the thirteenth Vice-Presidential Election.

The great uprising of 1857 was undoubtedly an epoch-making event in India's struggle for freedom. It was, in a real sense, India's First War of Independence. A grateful nation salutes the indomitable courage and exceptional valour displayed by the people who, irrespective of their caste, creed, religion and language, rose against the mighty British Empire. A function to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the First War of Indian Independence was held in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 10 May 2007. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the then Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat; and the then President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam paid glowing tributes to the supreme sacrifices of all those known and unknown heroes and the martyrs of the First War of Indian Independence. We reproduce in this issue of the *Journal* the texts of the Addresses delivered by the illustrious dignitaries on the occasion.

The Presiding Officers of the Legislatures hold vital and crucial position in a parliamentary democracy and in the contemporary era of coalition politics. The Presiding Officers' main function is to maintain order and conduct the proceedings of the House on the basis of equality and impartiality. He is also the guardian of the rights and privileges of the House and its members. In this context, periodic exchange of views among the Presiding Officers of the Legislatures in the country assumes a special significance. The 72nd Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) from 24 to 28 May 2007. The Conference held wide-ranging deliberations on two subjects of current significance, *viz.* 'Indiscipline including Disregard of Presiding Officers, disturbances, disruptions and other serious acts of misconduct in Legislatures–Future Strategies to Improve the Situation' and 'Relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary'. The Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference, Shri Somnath Chatterjee inaugurated the Conference on 25 May 2007. In his thought-provoking Address, he dwelt at length upon several areas of relevant interest in the present day political state of affairs and parliamentary environment. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Inaugural Address by Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

We also carry in this issue the other regular features, *viz.* Parliamentary Events and Activities, Privilege Issues, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Documents of Constitutional and

Parliamentary Interest, Sessional Review, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

In our constant pursuit of making the *Journal* more enriching and useful, we always look forward to suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome practice and problem oriented, non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and all others interested in the field of parliamentary political science.

—P.D.T. Achary
Editor

ADDRESS BY SMT. PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL ON THE ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE AS THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Following the Presidential election held on 19 July 2007, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil was declared elected as the President of India on 21 July 2007. Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil was sworn in as the President on 25 July 2007 by the Chief Justice of India, Justice K.G. Balakrishnan at a solemn function in the Central Hall of Parliament. Soon after the swearing-in ceremony, the new President addressed the distinguished gathering in the Central Hall.

We reproduce below the text of the Address delivered by Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil on her assumption of office as the President of India.

—Editor

Respected Dr. Abdul Kalamji, Mr. Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Members of the Union Council of Ministers, Governors, Chief Ministers, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, Members of Parliament, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

My greetings to you all. I thank the members of Parliament and the State Legislatures for electing me to this high office. I am overwhelmed by the affection and regard shown to me by so many people across the length and breadth of the country during the past few weeks. I stand here today as the Republic's first servant, humbled by this experience.

It will be my sincere endeavour to live up to the high expectations of all those who have chosen to elect me, and to serve the best interests of the people of India. I am fully aware of the great responsibility that has been placed on my humble shoulders.

This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the First War of Indian Independence. As I stand before you, I draw inspiration from the courage and sacrifice of all those who led our nation to freedom. One of the unique features of our national movement, of our freedom struggle, was the equal participation of men and women. Among the many who led that battle against foreign rule were brave women like Rani Lakshmibai, Begum Hazrat Mahal and Kittur Rani Chennamma.

Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil addressing dignitaries after being sworn-in as the President of India in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Seated at the dais (from left to right) are the Chief Justice of India, Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, the outgoing President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, and the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan

In a few days time we will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of our independence. I would like to remember with gratitude the great contribution to our freedom struggle made by leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad and Sarojini Naidu, who fought under the unique and path-breaking leadership of the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Therefore, I share the sense of pride of every Indian that the United Nations General Assembly has declared Gandhi Jayanti, the 2nd of October, as the International Day of Non-violence. We express our gratitude to the world community for this unique honour.

Ours is an ancient civilization but a young nation. We look back with pride to the tremendous achievements made during the 60 years of our independence in all spheres of life. More than anything else we have demonstrated to the world that a developing country of over a billion people, each aspiring for a better quality of life, can live harmoniously and move forward within the framework of a secular democracy.

As President I assure the people of India that in upholding the Constitution I will always be inspired by the stirring message of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar who, in his closing speech to the Constituent Assembly, emphasized the need to hold fast to the constitutional methods of achieving our social and economic objectives. Sixty years ago, speaking in these very premises, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said, and I quote, "Freedom and power bring responsibility." He reminded us that this great responsibility, I quote "rests upon this Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India." Indira Gandhi as India's first and only woman Prime Minister, showed us that the upliftment of the underprivileged and alleviation of poverty must remain the foremost and sacred duty of those who hold public office.

Today, India stands at the threshold of a new era of progress. The nation is moving at historically unprecedented rate of growth. It should be our combined endeavour to sustain this growth and ensure that it is socially inclusive. We must ensure that every section of our society—particularly the weak and the disadvantaged–are equal partners in, and beneficiaries of, the development process. We must also ensure that every region of the country participates in and benefits from the process of economic growth.

I am reminded of the words of the great seventeenth century, Marathi poet-saint, Sant Tukaram, who said:

जें का रंजलें गांजलें। त्यासि म्हणे जो आपुलें।
तो चि साधु ओळखावा। देव तेथें चि जाणावा॥

"One who befriends the poor and the oppressed, Recognise him to be a Saint, for God is with him"

Today, I commit myself to work for the well-being of all our citizens.

To realize the full potential of our people, we must invest in their capabilities and empower them with modern education and comprehensive health care. We must banish malnutrition, social evils, infant mortality and female foeticide. I wish to express my full commitment to the protection of child rights. We must wage a relentless campaign against poverty, ignorance and disease to seek a better future for our children. We must show wisdom and foresight in protecting our planet and our environment, for the good of all living species and future generations.

I am deeply committed to the cause of education and would like to see every person, man and woman, boy and girl, be touched by the light of modern education. Empowerment of women is particularly important to me as I believe this leads to the empowerment of the nation.

We must ensure that science and technology serve our needs better, and help us develop a scientific temper that will unleash the full potential of our people, of our farmers, our workers, our professionals and our entrepreneurs.

The people of our country desire better governance, faster development and a life of peace and security. We must all stand united in the fight against such divisive and destructive tendencies as communalism, casteism, extremism and terrorism.

The world has come to regard the success of social and economic development in India within the framework of a democracy as a symbol of hope for all humanity. As I think of the future of our great nation, and our duties and responsibilities in taking it forward, I am reminded of *Gurudev* Rabindranath Tagore's invocation about India awakening into that heaven of freedom where the mind is without fear and the head is held high. Let us all rededicate ourselves once again to our Constitutional ideals and work unitedly to build such an India.

Jai Hind!

FAREWELL ADDRESS PRESENTED TO DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM, PRESIDENT OF INDIA, BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ON 23 JULY 2007

On 23 July 2007, a function was held in the Central Hall of Parliament House to bid farewell to the outgoing President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. On behalf of all the members of Parliament, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee presented a Farewell Address to the President placing on record their reverent and warmhearted tributes to Dr. Kalam. The Speaker also presented him a casket containing a scroll signed by all the members of Parliament.

The President then addressed the distinguished gathering. He also attended an 'At Home' given by the members of Parliament.

We reproduce below the text of the Farewell Address presented to President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam by the members of Parliament and the Address by the outgoing President at the function.

—Editor

FAREWELL ADDRESS

PRESENTED TO

DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM

PRESIDENT OF INDIA

BY

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mahamahim Rashtrapatiji, Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam,

Sir, we, the members of both Houses of Parliament, have assembled here today to bid you farewell on the eve of your demitting the exalted Office of the President of our Republic, a position you have held over the last five years with great distinction and dignity, This is, indeed a solemn occasion for each one of us to extend to you, once again, our profound respects and utmost reverence.

Sir, in this Diamond Jubilee Year of Independence, we recall with deep gratitude, your wide-ranging contributions towards strengthening

the nation through your remarkable public career, and more particularly in the last five years, as the First Citizen of our great country.

Sir, the story of your journey from a tiny hamlet of Rameswaram to the Rashtrapati Bhawan is indeed inspiring. Your life and mission are a testimony to what a conscientious citizen of our country can achieve even when confronted by seemingly insurmountable hurdles in one's path. The many distinctions you have attained in life, under very difficult circumstances, will ever remain a source of inspiration for every aspiring youngster, who dreams of a brighter tomorrow for oneself and for the country at large.

Sir, the will to strive for excellence in whatever you do has been a defining feature of your multifaceted personality. This pursuit of excellence has led to your outstanding academic and professional accomplishments. Having specialized in Aeronautical Engineering from the prestigious Madras Institute of Technology, you did pioneering work in various capacities in several leading scientific institutions of the country.

Sir, You have had an eventful career during which you made unmatched contributions to our scientific and technological progress with exceptional zeal and commitment. Your conviction that our scientific community has the intrinsic potential to lead the nation into the Third Millennium will be a beacon to all those working in cutting edge technologies today.

Sir, you have been among the pioneers in advancing the country's space research programme in its early years and also in evolving scientific policies, strategies and missions for their developmental applications. You were convinced of the imperative of adopting scientific and technological programmes for strengthening the nation's defence preparedness. We recall with gratitude that some of India's most successful defence research programmes were implemented under your stewardship.

A grateful nation has conferred the three highest civilian honours on you, the *Padma Bhushan* in 1981, the *Padma Vibhushan* in 1990 and most importantly, the *Bharat Ratna*, in 1997, for your contribution to the development of scientific and technological research in our country.

Sir, in due recognition of your manifold services to the cause of the nation, the people's representatives of the country overwhelmingly elected you in July 2002 to the highest office of the President of the Republic. In the five years that you steered the nation as the Head of State, you have lived up to the high expectations and trust the people

reposed in you. In your own characteristic mode, you engaged the people in a dialogue on development and a vision for a millennial civilization.

Sir, you brought to the august office of the President a record of commendable achievements through your creative endeavours. You are recognized across the world as an eminent scientist, a great statesman, a renowned academician, a creative poet and writer, an excellent motivator and communicator and a visionary leader specially for the youth and the children.

An embodiment of courtesy and compassion, you are a shining example of the finest traditions of our composite culture. As one who strives tirelessly to translate dreams into action, you have been deeply committed to the welfare of the poor and the underprivileged. You have also been equally dedicated to the furtherance of peace, progress and prosperity in society by reaching the benefits of development in all its varied dimensions to all sections of our people.

Sir, through your innate simplicity and humility, you have lent grace and lustre to the august office. Besides discharging your constitutional responsibilities with dignity and poise, you have also been effectively articulating the nation's developmental concerns and priorities. Your knowledge-powered development model of 'Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas', popularly known as the PURA Model, through which you presented a road-map for bridging the rural-urban divide in the country, has proved to be the lodestar for the States to bring about socio-economic transformation in rural India.

We, the members of Parliament, recall vividly your call to our countrymen for transforming India into a developed nation by 2020, and assure you that we share you that laudable vision in its entirety. During your years as the President you have zealously tried to ignite the young minds to assimilate that vision and to strive to achieve the same.

As an icon of the younger generation, you have been spreading the message of 'dream, sweat and perseverance' among the children and youth of this country. With a view to impacting the impressionable minds of the children with scientific temper and patriotism, you have made it a mission to meet and encourage as many children as possible and to connect with our younger generations, who are the future of the nation. Your interaction with thousands of school children and college students during the Presidency has inspired them to 'think big' and 'dream big' so that, in the years ahead, they will be able to translate their dreams into action.

Sir, it is indeed a matter of pride that your tenure as the President of the Republic witnessed the nation achieving a high growth trajectory in various fields. We solemnly pledge and reassure you that we shall focus all our endeavours towards realizing your vision of transforming our country into a developed nation. In this exciting national mission, we are sure, Sir, that you will continue to guide us and inspire us, as you have done all through your illustrious life.

Parliament House, We remain,
New Delhi. Sir,
23 July, 2007 Yours respectfully,
1 Sravana, 1929 (Saka) MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM

Billion Smiles

"Vision for the nation emanates from Parliament"

Honourable Members of Parliament, my greetings to all of you. It has been a great experience for me working with the members of Parliament during the last five years. I have addressed the Parliament ten times; I have had the benefit of interacting with you at individual and specialist's group levels. I thank every one of you for your cooperation.

During my period of Presidency, two Governments have been in place and both the Prime Ministers Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Dr. Manmohan Singh have had many meetings with me and I have had the fortune and benefit of their counsel. The Presiding Officers of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha have the important mission of catalysing the best performance of the Parliament. I would like to congratulate the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee for his efforts to create a high-tech museum depicting the continuum of democratic heritage in India. Also, his efforts in creating Lok Sabha TV for televising the proceedings are in line with the needs of the modern democracy. Our former Vice-President Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, a remarkable person with a wide canvass of experience, has received general appreciation from all, about the way in which he conducted the Rajya Sabha proceedings. I also enjoyed working with him as a Vice-President. I congratulate the President elect Smt. Pratibha Patil on this historic occasion and wish her all the best in her mission.

On this occasion, I would like to recollect with appreciation the contributions made by the past Presidents of India, each one bringing his own core competence to the *Rashtrapati Bhavan*. I would like to

thank the Governors and the Lt. Governors of all the States and the Union territories and the Chief Ministers of all the States for their cooperation, when I visited the States and Union territories. Particularly, I would like to thank the Chief Ministers and the Presiding Officers of the Legislative Assemblies of fourteen States and Union territories for facilitating me to share the vision for their States and the missions thereon.

Dear Parliament members, I realize and appreciate how Parliamentary debates and decisions have led the nation today towards an ascending economic trajectory. The Nation's standing in the world is clearly visible. I have witnessed this special aspect during my visits to sixteen countries. As the President of India, I had the privilege to address various Parliaments abroad including the European Union Parliament. I am happy to note the special respect for Indians during my interactions with many Heads of States and delegations visiting India.

With this background, I visualize the following distinctive profile of India by the year 2020.

1. A Nation where the rural and urban divide has reduced to a thin line.
2. A Nation where there is an equitable distribution and adequate access to energy and quality water.
3. A Nation where agriculture, industry and service sector work together in symphony.
4. A Nation where education with value system is not denied to any meritorious candidate because of societal or economic discrimination.
5. A Nation which is the best destination for the most talented scholars, scientists, and investors.
6. A Nation where the best of health care is available to all.
7. A Nation where the governance is responsive, transparent and corruption free.
8. A Nation where poverty has been totally eradicated, illiteracy removed and crimes against women and children are absent and none in the society feels alienated.
9. A Nation that is prosperous, healthy, secure, devoid of terrorism, peaceful and happy and continues with a sustainable growth path.

10. A Nation that is one of the best places to live in and is proud of its leadership through creative and effective leadership in the Parliament, the State Assemblies and other institutions of the State.

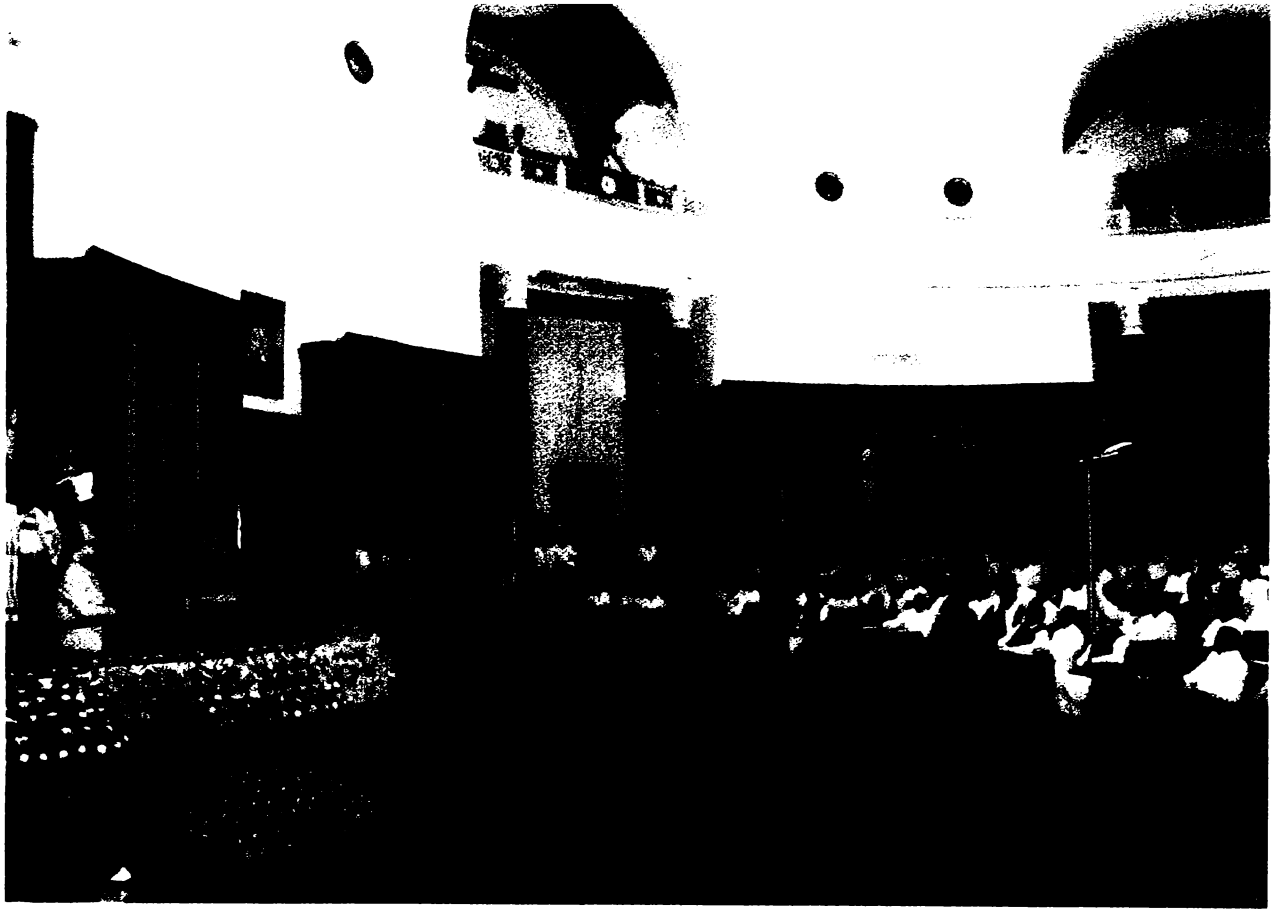
Integrated Action for developed India

To achieve the distinctive profile of India, all of us have before us the mission of transforming India into a developed nation. In order to succeed in our mission, the key five areas where India has a core competence for integrated action are: (1) Agriculture and Food Processing; (2) Education and Healthcare; (3) Infrastructure: Reliable and Quality Electric Power, Surface Transport and Infrastructure for all parts of the country; 4) Information and Communication Technology (5) Self Reliance in critical technologies.

These five areas are closely inter-related and if progressed in a coordinated way, will lead to food, economic and national security. One of the major mission within these five areas is the development of infrastructure for bringing rural prosperity through Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) by creating three connectivities namely physical, electronic and knowledge leading to economic connectivity. The number of PURA clusters for the whole country, is estimated to be 7,000. Simultaneously, both from energy and environmental considerations, we should aim at achieving Energy Independence by 2030. Energy independence has got to be achieved through three different sources namely renewable energy (solar, wind and hydro power), electrical power from nuclear energy and bio-fuel for the transportation sector. Energy independence throws very important technological challenges to the country.

While we are happy that our economy is in the ascent phase and our GDP is growing at nearly 9 per cent per annum, it is evident that economic growth is not fully reflected in the quality of life of a large number of people, particularly in rural areas and even in urban areas. Hence, we have evolved what is called a National Prosperity Index, (NPI) which is a summation of (a) annual growth rate of GDP; plus (b) improvement in quality of life of the people, particularly those living below the poverty line, plus (c) the adoption of a value system derived from our civilizational heritage in every walk of life which is unique to India. That is NPI=a+b+c. Particularly, (b) is a function of availability of housing, good water, nutrition, proper sanitation, quality education, quality healthcare and employment potential. (c) is a function of promoting the joint family system, creation of a spirit of working

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee presenting on behalf of all the members of Parliament, a scroll containing a Farewell Address to the outgoing President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam



The outgoing President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressing the distinguished gathering

together, leading a righteous way of life, removing social inequities, and above all promoting a conflict free, harmonious society. This will be indicated by peace in families and communities, reduction in corruption index, reduction in court cases, elimination of violence against children and women and communal tensions. There should be progressive reduction in the number of people living below the poverty line leading to its becoming near zero by 2020. All our efforts in improving the national economic performance should be guided by the measured National Prosperity Index of the nation at any point of time.

How shall we realize this vision? What are the immediate steps that we need to take to realize this vision?

My interaction with many of you and my understanding of the various Central and State programmes, the initiatives of private and non-governmental organizations as well as the overwhelming desire of the citizens to participate in the national development gives me the confidence that our society is ready to work for these missions. May I suggest that you all work together to evolve two major initiatives:

(i) To formulate an Energy Independence Bill–A three dimensional approach for energy choice towards realizing clean planet earth.

(ii) To adopt a resolution for Vision 2020: Adopt a Resolution that India will be transformed into a safe, prosperous, happy and socio-economically developed nation before the year 2020 using National Prosperity Index (NPI) as a measure.

You will agree with me the importance of making these bills a reality in a time bound manner.

Challenges before Parliament of the 21st Century

I have narrated the profile of the nation by 2020 and the actions needed to achieve the missions. While we have made significant gains in our economic performance, our performance on a range of human development and governance indicators require significant improvement to achieve the status of a fully-developed nation. The future political leadership the world over has to rise to the challenge of sustainability of growth, development, environment and resources. Honourable members, you have a major role to play in the creation of future leadership for the 21st century in creating missionary zeal among the youth of the nation to promote moral strength, security and prosperity for our people.

Parliamentary vision for the Nation

At the dawn of the 21st Century, Parliament, like any other

institution, faces greater challenges than ever before, especially on matters related to human development and governance. India can be rightly proud of its leadership and its many achievements in economic, social, scientific and political fields over the past 60 years. But, we cannot afford to rest content with the past achievements and we have to march in tune with the challenges of the 21st Century in technology, industry, agriculture, trade, governance system and leadership style. National leadership has to radiate confidence in our people that we can do it.

The challenges in realizing the developed India Vision 2020 also provide opportunities for innovation in every aspect of governance and legislative actions. As we review the governance system and legislative processes for the 21st Century, full advantages and implications of the technological revolutions, national and global connectivities, globalization and international cooperation and competition have to be taken into account.

Conclusion

Honourable members of Parliament may like to debate these suggestions and evolve, with unified and harmonious leadership, a Parliamentary Vision for the Nation, in the same manner as when our Constitution was first drawn up. This 21st Century Parliamentary Vision for India needs to have a global and long term perspective, and needs to be underpinned with implementation strategies, integrated structures and action plans for transforming India into a developed country by 2020 with National Prosperity Index as a measure and acquire energy independence before 2030.

It is this unique Parliamentary Vision and its effective implementation that would make our billion people smile and smile together. Working together in unity and harmony for a national Vision is the greatest need of the hour for our parliamentarians. You will agree with me that this is one of the most important mission of our Parliament today.

May I once again convey my gratitude to all the Honourable members of Parliament and my best wishes to all of you in your mission of realizing the goals of developed India 2020.

May God bless you.

3

ADDRESSES AT THE FUNCTION TO MARK THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST WAR OF INDEPENDENCE HELD IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE

A function to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the First War of Indian Independence was held in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 10 May 2007. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat; and the President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam paid glowing tributes to the supreme sacrifices of all those known and unknown heroes and the Martyrs of the First War of Indian Independence. Dignitaries, Ministers, Members of Parliament and the Distinguished invitees on the occasion stood in silence for a while to pay homage to the Martyrs. The function commenced with the famous Ghazal of the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar, *"Lagta Nahin Hai Dil Mera"* rendered by Shri Jagjit Singh, followed by rendition of the poem of Smt. Subhadra Kumari Chauhan *"Bundele Harbolo ke mooh hamne suni kahani thi khoob ladi mardani woh to Jhansi Wali Rani thi"* by Smt. Shubha Mudgal. Shri Gulzar, a well-known poet presented a special composition on the historic occasion. A 10-minute documentary on the First War of Indian Independence prepared by the Lok Sabha TV Channel was also presented on the occasion.

We reproduce below the texts of the Addresses delivered by the distinguished dignitaries on the occasion.

—Editor

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE

Respected Rashtrapatiji; Respected Up-Rashtrapatiji; Respected Pradhan Mantriji; Honourable Ministers; Honourable Members of Parliament; and Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have assembled here today to commemorate one of the most momentous events in modern Indian history–the 150th Anniversary of the First War of Independence.

We are thankful to the Respected *Rashtrapatiji*, Respected *Up-Rashtrapatiji* and Honourable *Pradhan Mantriji* for gracing this function. I respectfully welcome them and also all other dignitaries who have gathered here in this historic Central Hall, which witnessed the birth of the Indian Nation State, at the end of a long drawn struggle against colonialism,

nearly six decades back. On this solemn occasion, I join all of you in paying my humble tributes to the heroes and martyrs of 1857.

The great uprising of 1857 was undoubtedly an epoch-making event in India's struggle for freedom. Though the British imperialist rulers sought to downplay the great struggle as a mere *sepoy mutiny,* it was indeed India's First War of Independence in every sense, when people from every walk of life, irrespective of caste, creed, religion and language, rose as one against the might of the oppressive British rule. Driven by an intense sense of patriotism and unmindful of dire consequences, they valiantly fought against the British, and in the process willingly embraced untold hardship, retribution and even death.

The great resistance to the alien rule that began in Meerut in northern India sparked off a chain of uprisings across the country, against imperialist aggression and brutal and inhuman treatment. In fact, the plan was to launch a nation-wide rebellion on 31 May 1857 but the execution of *Shaheed* Mangal Pande at Barrackpore in Bengal on 8 April 1857 hastened the revolt. It was the eruption of an entire nation. The brave resistance put up by Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi, Nana Saheb Peshwa and Tantia Tope at Kanpur, Mauvi Ahmad-Ullah Shah and Begum Hazrat Mahal of Oudh, Khan Bahadur Khan at Bareilly, Kanwar Singh of Bihar and the supreme sacrifices of all those known and unknown heroes are an integral part of our freedom struggle and will always be written in letters of gold.

The First War of Independence might not have been successful in a military sense as the Britishers were able to put down the resistance by ruthless oppressive tactics and indiscriminate massacre of the fighters for freedom; but the people displayed indomitable courage and exceptional valour against a mighty empire, which a grateful nation recalls with the utmost reverence today.

Considering the socio-economic, political and administrative impact that the event had, history has truly acknowledged that the uprising consolidated the extreme yearning for independence in the Indian people. In the words of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru; "...the events of 1857 did make an indelible impression on a very large part of the country.... It was an expression of resentment against the yoke of foreign rule and an attempt to get rid of it." Unquote. In many ways, to my mind, it marked the beinning of organised resistance against colonialism everywhere.

The most remarkable feature of our First War of Independence was the sense of unity displayed by all sections of the nation–a shining example of peaceful co-existence and inclusiveness which the country

should always cherish and treasure. The 1857 War demonstrated that our people, irrespective of the factors that separated them from one another, wanted to live together, sharing each other's joys and sorrows. Today, let us solemnly pledge that we as a nation will follow that great example of unity and common action and fight against all attempts to undermine our national unity and integrity by divisive forces.

The message of our First War of Independence has inspired generations to continue the fight for liberation of our country from foreign rule. For them, India's independence was the first and immediate goal to be achieved for our country's full awakening and reconstruction. We, on this occasion, also pay homage to all our freedom fighters.

Following our Independence 60 years ago, we have achieved substantial progress in diverse fields and today we are a resurgent nation and the largest working democracy in the world. Our goal of meaningful socio-economic democracy can be reached only when all iniquities and deprivations are eradicated and our democracy becomes truly inclusive in every sense of the term. As a nation, we should abjure efforts to divide us on the grounds of caste, creed, region or religion, and that will be the best way to pay our true homage to the great freedom fighters of our country.

As the spark that ignited the intense urge of our nation for freedom from foreign rule, the First War of Independence occupies a special place in the hearts and minds of our people, We rededicate ourselves to the lofty ideals and values tor which they lived and died.

Along with this programme, the Parliament has also taken the initiative to organize a Light and Sound show at the National Stadium to depict the heroism of the freedom fighters and martyrs of 1857 and the saga that was the First War of Independence. I humbly invite all of you to please join the programme later this evening.

Before I conclude, I once again thank the Respected *Rashtrapatiji*, Respected *Up-Rashtrapatiji*, Honourable *Pradhan Mantriji* and all other dignitaries for their gracious presence at this function.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, DR. MANMOHAN SINGH

Respected Rashtrapatiji, Up-Rashtrapatiji, Mr. Speaker Sir, Honourable Members of Parliament, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

One hundred and fifty years ago, in the late afternoon of May 10,

1857, *sepoys* in Meerut mutinied and attacked the symbols of British imperial power—the telegraph office, the jail, the record room and, the bungalows in which the *sahibs* lived. As evening fell, a group of about 100 *sepoys* rode on horseback to Delhi. They arrived at the *Lal Qila* early in the morning of May 11, and announced to the old Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah, that they had revolted against the British. They demanded that he should provide leadership to the rebellion.

Thus began the great uprising of 1857 which took the British more than one year to suppress. *San-Sattavan,* as the people of our sub-continent remember it, was the first significant moment in India's struggle to free herself from British domination. From Delhi to Patna, from the Terai to Jhansi, along the mighty Ganga and the calm Jamuna-sepoys and princes, peasants and *taluqdars*, artisans and intellectuals, came together to fight British rule. A military mutiny quickly transformed itself into a battle for freedom. Both Karl Marx and Benjamin Disraeli, watching the events from London—and from two very different ideological perspectives—conceded that the uprising was nothing short of a *"national revolt".*

The rebels of 1857 fought for freedom from foreign rule. They also fought to protect their *deen* and *dharma.* We must not make the mistake today of interpreting these terms in the narrow sense of the word 'religion'. What the rebels fought to defend was 'a way of life' which they feared the British were destroying. As an alien imposition, British rule threatened cherished notions of an ancient culture. The people of India resisted this intervention in their way of life.

What is significant is that despite rallying under the flag of *deen* and *dharma,* the rebellion was united. There was no division between Hindus and Muslims in their resistance to alien domination. In every *ishtahar* that the rebel leadership issued, Hindus and Muslims were called upon to rise together to fight against British rule and to remove it. The events of 1857 stand as a great testimony and tribute to the traditions of Hindu-Muslim unity in India.

The great patriot and scholar, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who was the Minister for Education in 1957, the centenary of the uprising, wrote:

"Common life had developed among Hindus and Muslims a sense of brotherhood and sympathy. . . That is why the struggle of 1857 took a national and racial but not a communal turn. In the fight for freedom, Hindus and Muslims stood shoulder to shoulder. This feeling of unit was found not only In the army but also among the civil population. There is no record of a single incident of conflict or clash on a religious basis

even though there are instances where British officers tried to weaken the Indian camp by stressing such differences. India faced the trial of 1857 as a united community."

Historical research has more than confirmed the conclusions of Maulana Azad. Ninety years after 1857, we became an independent nation. Sixty years hence we are today, a proud, a self-confident, an intrinsically secular democratic Republic. We can proudly hold our heads high and say—*sare jahan se accha, Hindustan hamaara.*

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we are gathered here to remember without hatred, to honour without deification. We mourn the lives of all those who were killed– men, women and children. We honour the memory of those who battled for the freedom of our Motherland. As a nation inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's message of non-violence, India has consciously abjured violence as an instrument of social and political change. Yet we cannot forget those inspired revolutionaries—many of them anonymous to history—who sacrificed their lives in 1857 to free the country from foreign yoke. Their struggle may not have been imbued with modern notions of nationalism but that cannot take away their valour and their heroism. Above all, we cannot forget the Hindu-Muslim unity that 1857 represented and held out as an example for subsequent generations.

I stand here, in all humility, to pay homage to the martyrs of 1857. I urge the people of our great nation to ensure that their sacrifice is not in vain. It is our responsibility to build a nation, free from want, rid of the ancient scourge of poverty, ignorance and disease. It is our responsibility to build a new India that is inclusive and caring. It is our responsibility to build an India marked by harmony between communities, social justice and the equality of all, irrespective of religion, region, language or caste. It is by doing so we will be able to pay true homage to those who sacrificed their lives in the cause of our freedom.

Jai Hind!

ADDRESS BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA AND CHAIRMAN OF THE RAJYA SABHA, SHRI BHAIRON SINGH SHEKHAWAT

Namaskar, Good Morning!

It's a privilege to be here on this momentous occasion. The 150th Anniversary of the First War of Independence is an important landmark in the history of our nation. The War of 1857 continues to evoke a legitimate sense of national pride in us. Its impact on the psyche of the

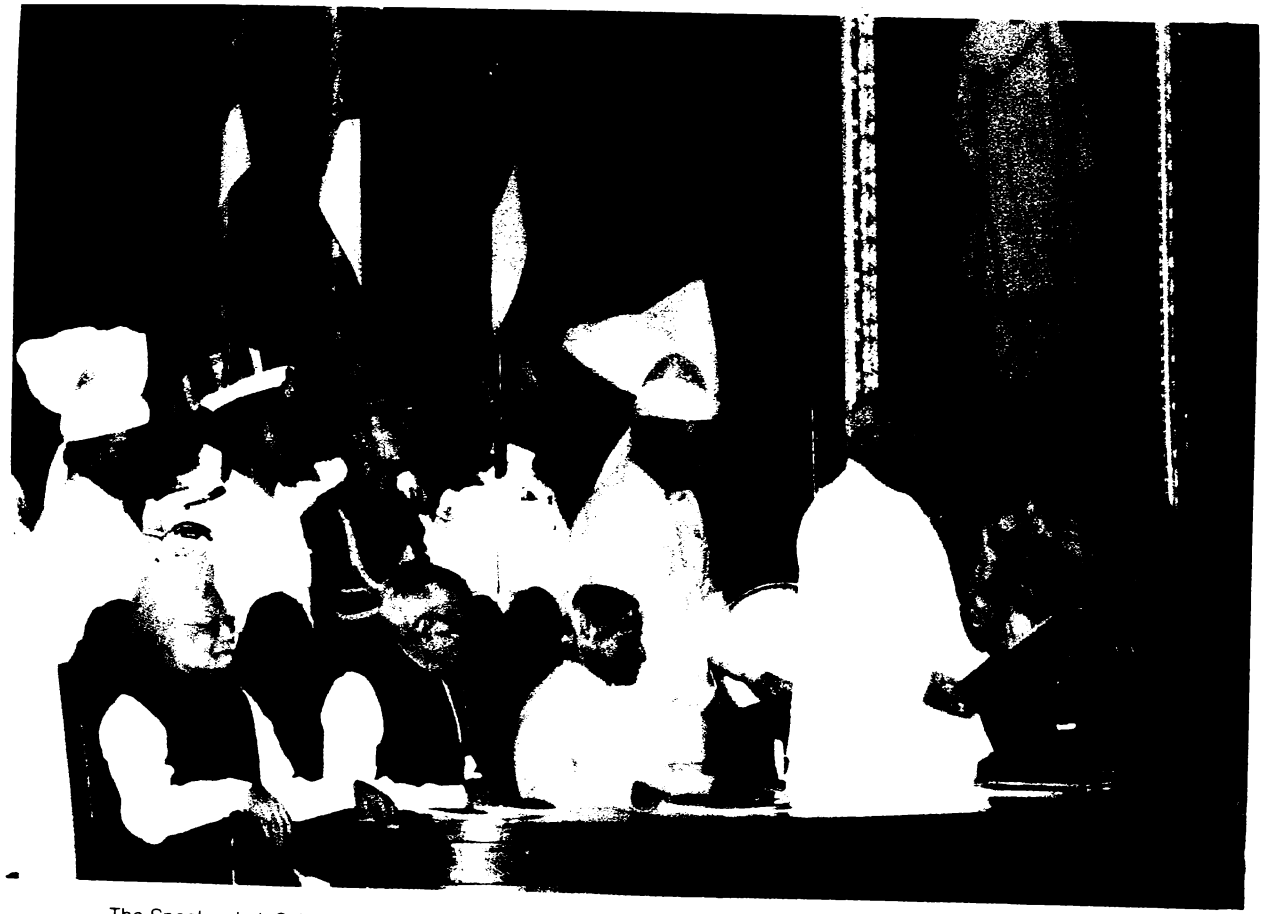
people in arousing sentiments against the colonial rule and igniting the spirit of freedom in the minds and hearts of the people was indeed very deep and profound.

On this occasion, we pay our respectful homage to the martyrs who gave their lives so that the future generations could breathe the air of freedom. Their sacrifices paved the way for our freedom which provided us the opportunity to build a new resurgent India.

Friends, the year 1857 was the beginning of our making a tryst with destiny. After a long struggle we attained freedom in 1947 under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation. At that momentous time Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had exhorted the nation **to redeem our pledge to dedicate oneself to the service of India and her people.** It was, therefore, very appropriate that in our Constitution, we made the solemn resolve *to secure all its citizens justice, liberty, equality and promoting among them all, fraternity*, This resolve implied building a prosperous nation though securing growth with equity, providing opportunity in real terms to every citizen to fulfil his aspirations and ambitions, and hope and motivation to the youth to build a nation of their dreams and vision.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a matter of pride that working within the democratic framework of governance, India is emerging as a front ranking nation marching ahead with sustainable growth and development. As the largest democracy, we have set up example before the world of successfully sustaining our basic unity along with the diversity of cultures, religions and linguistic groups. Our all round achievements have been significant and make us all very proud. However, our pledge still remains to be redeemed in full measure. Overcoming the underdevelopment and dealing with the social exclusion are the biggest challenges before us.

Friends, I believe that taking up in full earnestness the unfinished agenda of building a strong and prosperous India would be the true tribute to great martyrs of freedom. What shall be the focus and content of development that we should be aiming at? Mahatma Gandhi had said, I quote, **"true democracy is which promotes people's welfare".** Unquote. The foremost task is to ensure that progress and development result in promoting welfare of all sections of the people. We need development that promotes growth not just in terms of percentage increase in GDP but which brings out all-inclusive development, a growth that uplifts the poor and the deprived sections and that which alleviates poverty and bridges the gap between the rich and the poor, and the urban-rural divide. Only such a development would provide a strong fifth pillar of strength to the citadel of our democracy.



The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee addressing the distinguished gathering. Seated at the dais are (from left to right) the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Vice-President of India and Chairman

The Prime Minister of India. Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing the distinguished gathering

The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat delivering his address

The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam delivering his address

It has all through been my conviction that in democracy, welfare of the poorest amongst the poor should be the first charge on the treasury of the State. I have always believed in the *Antyodaya* philosophy of development, that is, the programmes of economic uplift of the poor should have foremost focus on the poorest amongst the poor.

In the agenda of action for building a strong and prosperous India, the strategy of development as also the system of governance would need to address critical issues and concerns like population stabilization, corruption-free governance, judicial and electoral reforms.

Honourable members, I am always an optimist. I have no doubt that a nation of over a billion people is destined to be a prosperous, strong and developed nation and be an active participant in the political, economic and intellectual transactions of the 21st Century. The big reservoir of the bright young men and women, dedicated to the cause of India's social, economic and political development is our unique strength.

Ladies and gentlemen, this solemn occasion also reminds us of unbelievable heroic sacrifices and deeds of valour by freedom fighters in different parts of the country; each such site is a holy pilgrimage for every Indian. The long period from 1857 to 1947 is the precious heritage of our unique struggle for freedom, democracy and human rights not only for the people of India but for the people all over the world who had been suffering under the subjugation of colonial and imperialist forces. I have, therefore, been in favour of setting up a museum of our **National Freedom Struggle: 1857-1947** which will be the lighthouse to guide and inspire our youth and future generations to preserve the hard earned freedom, and motivate them for building up a strong and fully developed nation worthy of the dreams of the freedom fighters.

With these words, I pay my respectful homage to the martyrs and our freedom fighters on the 150th Anniversary of our First War of Independence. On this sacred day, let all of us pledge to rededicate and commit ourselves towards building a strong, prosperous and resurgent nation blessed with peace and harmony and prosperity to all the citizens.

Thank You, *Namaskar!*

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM

India's Second Freedom Movement

Honourable Members of Parliament,

I am inspired to participate in this Commemorative Function to

celebrate the 150th Anniversary of our First War of Independence. The year 1857 was a 'turning point' in the nineteenth century signaling the beginning of the end of many centuries of colonial rule.

This resurgence of nationalism started as small streams of dissent against the tyranny of colonial rule. Foreign rulers did not understand these warning signals, which began at 6 P.M. on Sunday, 10th May 1857, in Meerut, with what was called a mutiny against foreign troops. In reality it was a symptom of something far deeper and greater. Soon these small streams joined together to become a powerful flood as a nationwide movement to regain our lost freedom. This Freedom Movement created a renaissance of visionary, devoted and passionate leadership across the entire spectrum of our civilisational heritage, in multiple fields such as politics, spirituality, literature, fine arts, judiciary, science and industry. I shall illustrate this phenomenon of the resurgence of national leadership with a few examples.

In the political field, *Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak,* a great Sanskrit scholar and astronomer, proclaimed in 1880's the fiery words, "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it."

In the field of science, *Prof. Subramanyan Chandrasekhar,* a famous astrophysicist in his biography asked a question how at a particular period of Indian science in 1920-1925, there were five to six great contemporary scientists of international reputation. They were *Sir C.V. Raman, J.C. Bose, Srinivasa Ramanujan, S.N. Bose* and *Meghnad Saha,* Chandra's own answer was that Indian scientists wanted to prove that Indian intelligence could match the best minds in the world.

In the industrial field, *Jamsetji Nussenwanji Tata* started work in the 1880's to bring the steel industry to India, even though colonial rulers were not favourably disposed to the idea. *Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray,* a Professor of Chemistry at Calcutta University, was a pioneer in the field of pharmaceutical industry in India in the 1880's.

In the field of education, *Sir Sayyed Ahmad Khan* founded the Aligarh Muslim University in 1875, while in 1916, *Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya* established the Banaras Hindu University.

In literature and poetry, *Rabindranath Tagore* won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913. Recall his ringing words, at a time when the vision of freedom for India seemed remote and unrealisable. Tagore was urging his countrymen towards independence with words that expressed his complete conviction and passionate faith, saying:

> ". . . Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
> Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake. . ."

During the same time the poems of *Subramaniam Bharati,* a great Tamil poet; nationalist and revolutionary expressed the depth of his love for a great India, where women would be free and where education and skills would be widespread. In 1910 itself, he wrote a national poem, the song of freedom ". . . let us celebrate, our blissful freedom has already arrived."

In the field of music, it was a unique phenomenon to see the music trinity consisting of the great saint *Thiyagaraja Swamigal, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Shyama Sastrigal* enriching music and culture in the country.

In women's participation in the freedom movement, many women ranging from *Bhima Bai Holkar, Rani Channamma of Kittur, Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi, Begum Hazrat Mahal of Avadh* in the 19th century and *Sarojini Naidu, Kasturba Gandhi and Annie Besant* in the 20th century are names, which are remembered even today for their singular contribution both on the battlefield and in the political field.

Once again, ***In the political arena,*** the excellence in multiple fields was consolidated, given political direction and momentum. In 1942, *Mahatma Gandhi* announced the "Quit India Movement." As part of this focused "Quit India" and *Satyagraha* movements, many great leaders such as *Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, Sardar Patel, Abul Kalam Azad, Maulana Mohd. Ali, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji)* under the inspirational leadership of Mahatma Gandhi spearheaded the dynamic independence movement despite personal hardship and suffering.

In the spiritual field, a major movement emerged in the late 1800's through *Swami Vivekananda* and *Aurobindo Ghosh* and later through philosophers like *J. Krishnamurthi* who evoked spiritual consciousness in people.

I recall here the dream of the visionary and freedom fighter, Sri Aurobindo Ghosh. The first of these dreams was a revolutionary movement to create a free and united India. This was achieved on 15th August 1947. His second dream was the resurgence and liberation of the peoples of Asia and India's return to her great role in the progress of human civilisations. Sri Aurobindo's third dream for India was her role in the founding of a world—union for a just, bright and noble life for all mankind.

I saw this dream coming true when I was invited to address the European Union Parliament a few days ago. When I said "... I have brought from India, a message, a message to start three important Indo-European missions, which can contribute to global peace and prosperity..."

The missions, which I have put forth based on India's experience and the dynamics of the European Union are:—

1. Evolution of Enlightened Society: For evolving a citizen with a value system and leading to a prosperous and peaceful world.

2. Leading to Energy Independence: A three dimensional approach for energy choice towards realising a clean planet Earth.

3. World Knowledge Platform: For synergising the core competence of the European Union and India in certain areas for providing solutions to critical issues like water, healthcare and capacity building.

So I have suggested that the Indian Parliament and the European Union Parliament might join hands in a global partnership that would lead to an inclusive, just, prosperous and strong world order. I received a sincere and enthusiastic response from the 27 countries that are members of the European Union. I felt that Europe is now ready to partner India in multiple missions for the benefit of all mankind. This initiative now, Honourable members, is in your hands to realise peace and prosperity for the nation and the world.

Continuing Quest: Enlightened and Dynamic Leadership for One Billion People

Honourable members, our movement to true freedom and independence is still incomplete, our story is still unfolding. *The global environment however is still dangerous and India's freedom won by suffering and sacrifice has to be alertly guarded, strengthened and expanded.* Freedom and independence must be our continuing quest and in such a manner as to accelerate our evolution as a free nation through a bold and swift development. Can we keep this perspective while we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the First War of Independence? The time has now arrived for the Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies to emerge with a new vision and leadership to make our nation not only enlightened, united, harmonious, rich and prosperous, but above all, a safe nation, *invulnerable forever* to invasion and infiltration across its borders. I visualise the following distinctive profile for India by the year 2020, if Parliament today resolves to implement Mission India 2020 for a strong, prosperous and happy nation.

1. A Nation where the rural and urban divide has reduced to a thin line.
2. A Nation where there is an equitable distribution and adequate access to energy and quality water.

3. A Nation where the agriculture, the industry and the service sectors work together in symphony.
4. A Nation where education with a value system is not denied to any meritorious candidate because of societal or economic discrimination.
5. A Nation which is the best destination for the most talented scholars, scientists and investors.
6. A Nation where the best of healthcare is available to all.
7. A Nation where governance is responsive, transparent and corruption free.
8. A Nation where poverty has been totally eradicated, illiteracy removed and crimes against women and children are absent and none in society feels alienated.
9. A Nation that is prosperous, healthy, secure, peaceful and happy and continues with a sustainable growth path.
10. A Nation that is one of the best places to live in and is proud of its leadership.

Leadership for Sustained Development

National leadership for realising and sustaining the distinctive profile of a strong and prosperous India can emerge only when there is coherent, orderly and effective leadership from our Parliament and Legislative Assemblies.

Conclusion

National leadership has to radiate confidence in our people and boldly emerge by formulating and implementing new national missions, targeting specific time-bound goals. India can be rightly proud of its many achievements in the economic, social and political fields over the past 60 years. But we cannot afford to rest content with past achievements and ignore recent developments that call for a change in technology, industry and agriculture. Many challenges need to be responded to: the emergence of multi-party coalitions as a regular form of Government, that need to rapidly evolve as a stable, two-party system, the need to strengthen internal security to cope with global terrorism and new forms of internal law and order problems, the widening of economic disparities during a period of high growth in the absence of a comprehensive National Prosperity Index in place of GDP, the rapid depletion of global fossil fuel reserves and increasing threats to our territorial security by the development of new forms of warfare.

When I see you, Honourable members of Parliament, particularly young members, I see in you the eternal spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, Dr. Ambedkar, Abul Kalam Azad, Rajaji and many great visionary leaders of our nation. Can you also become visionary leaders, putting the nation above yourself? Can you become one of the great ones of India? Yes, you can. Yes, you can. You can, if you enliven Parliament with leadership for the great mission of transforming India into an economically prosperous, happy, strong and safe nation before 2020. For that to happen, young Honourable members, you have to come out of small aims, you have to have a big aim and work for the nation in Parliament and outside. Honourable members, history will remember you for launching a great, bold and swift mission for the nation, a notable departure from small and fragmented actions. My best wishes to all of you.

May God Bless you.

4

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE AT THE 72ND CONFERENCE OF PRESIDING OFFICERS OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES IN INDIA

The 72nd Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) from 24 to 28 May 2007. The Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference, Shri Somnath Chatterjee delivered the Inaugural Address on 25 May 2007.

We reproduce below the text of the Address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, at the Conference.

—Editor

Honourable Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly; Honourable Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Honourable Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha; Honourable Presiding Officers of State Legislatures; Honourable Ministers; Honourable Legislators; Secretaries-General of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha and their staff; Secretaries and other staff members from the State Legislative Bodies; Friends of the Media and Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a matter of great pleasure and also an honour for me to be here with you all at the 72nd Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India. This is the second time that the Kerala Legislative Assembly is hosting this Conference at Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala, which was the venue of our Conference in 1968 as well. I understand the then Travancore-Cochin Assembly also had hosted a Conference in 1951. I convey my thanks to the Honourable Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly for his gracious offer to host the Conference in this beautiful city and for making impeccable arrangements.

Kerala is one of the most idyllic States of India. Apart from being the land of breathtaking beauty and lush greenery, Kerala has many reasons to take pride in its varied achievements. It ranks the highest among the States in the country's Human Development Index. While the rest of the country is striving to improve literacy rates and sex ratio, Kerala has been able to achieve the enviable literacy rate of

near hundred per cent and a positive sex ratio of 1058. In the health care infrastructure, Kerala is today among the front ranking States of the country with its indicators competing very favourably with many of the most developed countries. The dedicated and industrious people of Kerala have set high benchmark in diverse fields of their activities making the State politically, economically and culturally advanced.

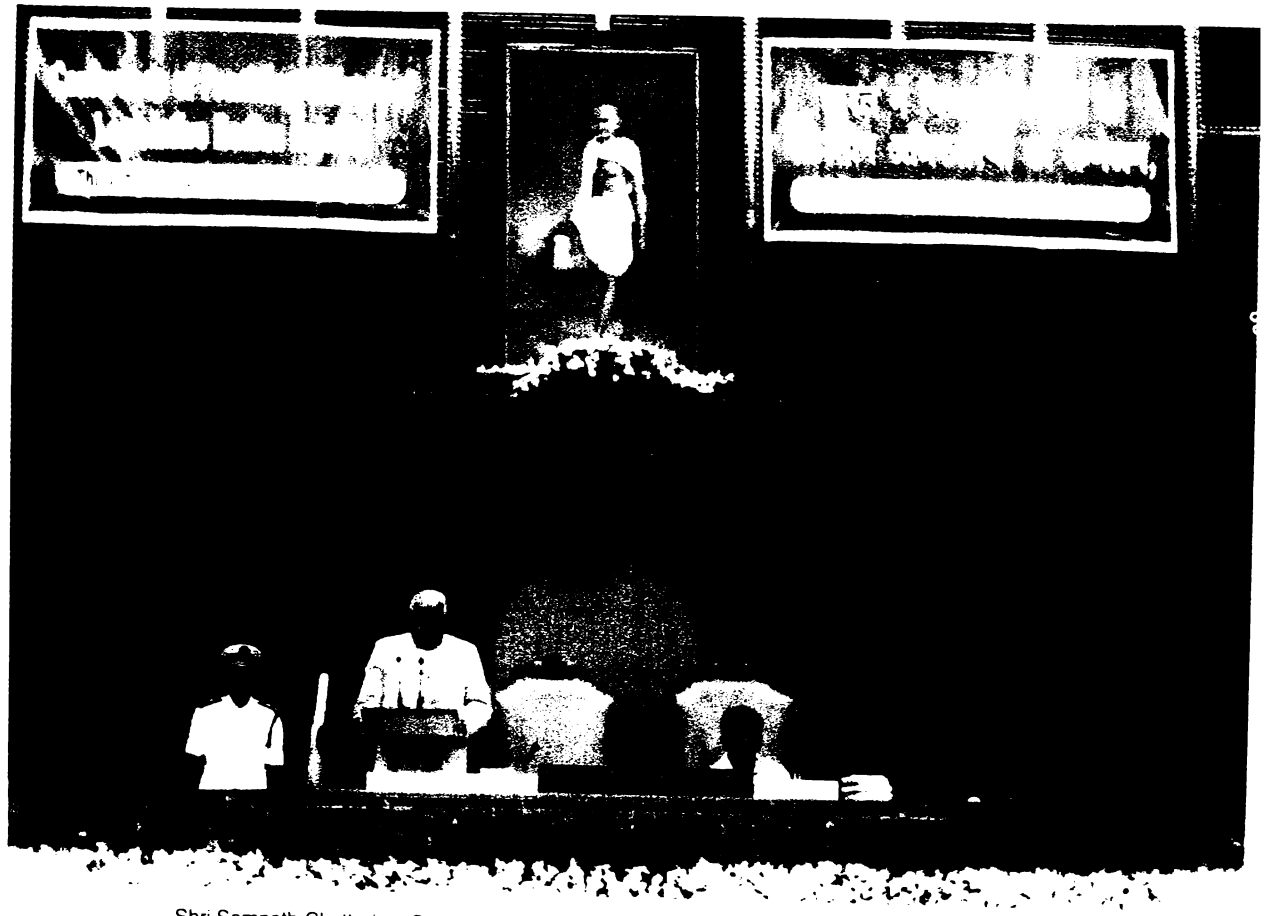
I have had opportunities of visiting Kerala on a few occasions after I assumed the Office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha and I am very happy to be here again today. I am delighted to see this Conference taking place in this impressive new Assembly Complex. Some of our State Legislative Assemblies, including Kerala, are celebrating their Golden Jubilee this year. I extend my greetings and good wishes to all of them.

Referred to by Mahatma Gandhi as the 'Evergreen City of India', Thiruvananthapuram is characterized by its undulating terrain of low coastal hills, long shoreline, beautiful beaches, backwater stretches and busy commercial thoroughfares. Effectively blending modernity and tradition, the city is also a centre of research and development for space science, information technology, bio-technology, medicine, particularly our traditional systems like the *Ayurveda* amongst other subjects. Today, it is one of the major destinations for medical tourists. I am happy that we are meeting in such a vibrant and dynamic city for this important Conference.

Friends, a little while ago we made a reference to the passing away of some of our esteemed colleagues, who had belonged to the family of Presiding Officers. I pay my respectful homage to their memory.

After the Raipur Conference held in November 2005, our family has been joined by as many as 21 distinguished Presiding Officers. I extend a hearty welcome to each one of them on their joining our fraternity. I also place on record our deep appreciation of the valuable contributions made to our Conferences by the former Presiding Officers of different State Assemblies.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not mention that Shri Hashim Abdul Halim, as the Speaker of West Bengal Assembly is attending our Conference for 25 years consecutively and I wish to convey my sincere felicitations to him for his unique record which has no parallel nor will have in future, as I reckon. Shri Halim has made signal contribution to the strengthening of parliamentary democracy in our country. We are proud that today he is the Chairman of the Commonwealth



Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker, Lok Sabha delivering the Inaugural Address at the Conference

Parliamentary Association and has brought about significant changes in its functioning as a cohesive unit. I am sure all of you will join me in conveying our warmest felicitations on his achieving a milestone and in wishing him many more years of sterling service towards the consolidation of our democratic structure.

Soon after the Raipur Conference, we had met in February 2006 in New Delhi for an Emergency Conference which was necessitated by the initiation of judicial proceedings by some former members of Parliament, challenging their expulsion from the membership of the House due to their improper conduct of accepting money for asking questions in the House.

You may recall that on 23 December 2005, ten members involved in what is known as the 'cash for query' case were expelled from the membership of the Lok Sabha as their conduct was unbecoming of members of Parliament. The matter was investigated into by a Committee consisting of members from all sections of the House. I constituted the Committee after consulting Leaders of Parties in the Lok Sabha. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, a motion to expel the members was moved by the Honourable Leader of the House and adopted by the House. As mentioned earlier, those former members then filed writ petitions in the Supreme Court challenging their expulsion.

The Supreme Court reportedly directed that notices be issued to the parties including the Speaker, Lok Sabha. I, however, decided that the Secretariat would not accept any such notice, far less respond to the same as in my view the issue was non-justiciable, as the Constitution provides, *inter alia,* that votes given by Honourable members cannot be questioned in any judicial proceedings and that the House had full right and authority to deal with all matters regarding discipline and misconduct of the members. In this connection, I convened a meeting of the Leaders of Parties In Lok Sabha on 20 January 2006 to discuss the issues relating to and arising out of the said proceedings. Two eminent lawyers of our country, Shri Fali S. Nariman and Shri T.R. Andhyarujina also attended the meeting on my invitation. I had made a Statement in the Lok Sabha on 17 February 2006, informing the House of these developments.

This was also the subject matter of discussion at the Emergency Conference of the Presiding Officers held in New Delhi on 4 February 2006. Both the All Party Meeting of the Leaders as well as the Emergency Conference of the Presiding Officers, unanimously supported the decision taken by me not to accept or respond to the notices

issued by the Courts of Law in the matter of expulsion of the members of the two Houses of our Parliament.

You are aware that the Honourable Supreme Court has dismissed the petitions filed by the expelled members and has upheld the right of the Legislatures to take disciplinary action against the members, but has also observed that in some given areas, the Courts may intervene, with the decisions of the Legislature, which have raised some doubts and concern. I hope no such occasion will ever arise. However, we may discuss the issue objectively in the context of the relevant provisions of our Constitution.

In December 2005, a news item was telecast in the electronic media that four members of Parliament were indulging in improper conduct in the matter of implementation of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) in their respective areas. On 20 December 2005, I referred to this news item in the House and after discussing the matter with the Leaders of different parties, later in the day, I announced the constitution of an Inquiry Committee consisting of seven members, representing major parties, to probe into the matter. I also requested the members concerned not to attend the House until the issue was looked into and a decision was taken. The Committee submitted its report on 13 March 2006, wherein it was held that the conduct of the four members, whose cases had been referred to the Committee, was not above board and 'they need to be handed out appropriate punishment'. The Committee recommended that the period of abstention of the concerned members from the sittings of the House, under the direction of the Speaker, should be deemed to be their suspension from the membership of the House and that they should be reprimanded and their membership should be suspended till 22 March 2006. The House unanimously accepted these recommendations. The Committee further recommended that the Union Government might suitably revise the guidelines governing MPLADS with a view to plug various loopholes and lacunae.

I must also make a reference to another very unfortunate development. Recently, some members of the Lok Sabha have been accused of being involved in 'human trafficking' and if they are found guilty, it would greatly tarnish the prestige and image of the supreme representative institution of the land. I mentioned the matter in the Lok Sabha on 26 April 2007 after discussing with the Honourable Leaders of different parties and they unanimously agreed that the House should not only express its concern but should also condemn the commission of the alleged offence by the member of this august

House. Accordingly, on behalf of the House and on my behalf as the Presiding Officer, I strongly disapproved the conduct of the member concerned and condemned the same. In the circumstances, I requested the member not to attend the sittings of the House till the issue was deliberated upon by the leaders and a decision taken.

Considering the gravity of the situation, I held a meeting with the Honourable Leaders of different parties on 15 May 2007 to deliberate upon the matter, so that a course of action could be decided to deal with such matters in future. As unanimously suggested by the Honourable Leaders, I have constituted an Eleven-Member Committee of Members of Lok Sabha to, *inter alia*, inquire into the instances of misconduct of the members of Lok Sabha, including misuse of parliamentary privileges and facilities by them and also to look into the desirability of defining what acts would amount to misconduct on the part of a member and make suitable recommendations regarding action to be taken in cases of such misconduct.

I believe that going beyond normal parliamentary practices and procedures, we should take measures which would result in our institution taking pro-active steps on important issues of public interest so that the same may be reflected in the House. We have started a Lecture Series in the Parliament to enable the parliamentarians to benefit from the views of experts on issues of contemporary parliamentary or national importance. Such Lectures have proved to be very instructive and popular as they provide good and relevant insight into different subjects. Already, eleven such Lectures have been organized on important issues. The Presiding Officers of the State Legislatures may consider having such Lecture Series for the benefit of the members of their Legislative Assemblies too.

In the last Conference, I had informed you about the constitution of several Parliamentary Fora in our Parliament. To begin with, we constituted a Parliamentary Forum on Water. Since then, three more such fora—one each on Youth, Children, and Population and Public Health—have been constituted. These fora provide a platform to the members to have interactions with the experts and key officials from the Ministries concerned. The focused and meaningful discussions help formulate a result-oriented approach for the speedy and effective implementation of the programmes in the respective fields. Such interactions also enable the members to effectively raise the issues on the floor of the House. We have clear-cut guidelines for the working of these fora so as to ensure that they do not interfere with or encroach upon the jurisdiction of the Departmentally Related Standing Committees or the Ministries/Departments concerned.

You may recall that two separate dedicated Satellite Channels were launched on 14 December 2004 for the live telecast of the entire proceedings of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha nationwide by *Doordarshan.* I am pleased to inform you that from 11 May 2006, we have started our own Lok Sabha Television Channel (LSTV) independent of the *Doordarshan.* Besides the live telecast of the Lok Sabha proceedings, various programmes are also being telecast on this Channel. From 24 July 2006, it has become functional as a 24-hour Channel with a number of valuable and informative programmes. I hope this Channel will help develop an informed citizenry and in creating close link between the House of the People and our citizens, who are the real masters, which will lead to more perceptive understanding of our parliamentary functioning. I wish to convey my sincere thanks to the Honourable Prime Minister and the Honourable Minister for Information and Broadcasting for providing help in the launching and running of the LSTV.

In another initiative, in Parliament, we have set up the Parliament Museum in the Parliament Library Building which was inaugurated by the Honourable President of India on 14 August 2006. The Museum is a hi-tech, interactive and 'story-telling museum' which depicts the democratic ethos and institutional development of our country with the help of audio-visual aids. Being more a Museum of events than of objects like other Museums, it transports the visitors into the earlier times with its walk-through period settings, sound-light-video synchronization, large screen interactive computer multi-media, and visualization with multi-screen panoramic projection, virtual reality and animatronics. It is hoped that the Museum will particularly inspire the new generation to learn more about our democratic legacy and traditions and also to participate enthusiastically in the process of nation-building. The Museum has since been opened to the general public and all students are allowed to enter without any fee or charge. It is encouraging that the Museum is becoming more and more popular with regular stream of visitors, particularly students and I invite all to visit the Museum as and when you visit Delhi.

In this Conference, we will be discussing two important subjects and issues which have acquired great relevance though they have been discussed in earlier Conferences also. The subjects, *viz.* 'Indiscipline including Disregard of Presiding Officers, disturbances, disruptions and other serious acts of misconduct in Legislatures—Future Strategies to Improve the Situation' and 'Relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary' are undoubtedly of contemporary significance.

In a Parliamentary Democracy, which is governed by the rule of law and the Constitution, being a legislator is at once a privilege and an honour, which also brings with it certain rights as well as responsibilities. It is through the elected representatives that the sovereign will of the people finds expression in our Legislative Bodies. The trust and faith which the people have reposed in us need to be reciprocated with sincerity and commitment to their welfare.

The Parliamentary System of governance for our country was decided upon by the Founding Fathers of our Constitution as the most suitable method for the progress and development of our people. In this system the legislative bodies are the most important institutions which the people elect and they expect that their representatives will discharge their duties with commitment, sincerity and probity. It is a matter of greatest concern that, of late, the people are getting disillusioned, if not cynical, about the relevance of parliamentary system, as they find that the different legislatures are not functioning in a manner which will evoke the respect and admiration of the people. This, no doubt, is greatly weakening the foundations of our polity and indeed our whole political structure itself. I urge upon the legislators in our country, with all humility, to introspect and see whether they are contributing towards strengthening the system or not and whether they are faithful to their electors or not, as they are the real masters in a democracy.

Dignified conduct of the members of our Legislatures, both inside and outside the Chambers, is an essential pre-requisite for an effective parliamentary system. The subject of discussion for this Conference deals with the manner in which the members conduct themselves in the House and to evolve strategies to improve the situation. Though the maintenance of order in the House is the primary duty of the Presiding Officer, the members owe a duty to cooperate with the chair and also need to have a commitment to preserve and maintain the dignity and prestige of the House by their decorous behaviour. It is a common experience that the deliberations in the House are often interrupted for reasons and by methods which can never be justified. On many occasions interruptions lead to pandemonium, with members coming to the well, which is totally prohibited, shouting slogans inside the House, interrupting others from speaking and totally disregarding, if not deliberately insulting, the Chair, causing forced adjournment of the scheduled business which not only results in loss of the precious time of the House, but subverts the very process of the Legislatures functioning in accordance with the Constitutional mandate and, in the process, undermining the people's faith in them.

It is quite distressing that proceedings of the House are often disrupted not spontaneously but by deliberate acts of some members committed for narrow political reasons in complete disregard of efforts made by the Presiding Officers to regulate the proceedings. Time has come for all of us to be greatly concerned about the falling standards of Parliamentary behaviour generally. Scenes of unruly behaviour naturally attract adverse public comments, to which we cannot take exception. We must ever remember that the loss of people's faith can lead to irreparable damage to our democratic institution. Disruptions are given front page coverage in Newspapers and on Television Channels, while sadly, important debates do not seem to attract media attention. This has unfortunately given members the erroneous impression that disruption of the House ensures ample publicity—and not serious and structured debates on matters of national concern. Some members feel that disturbances and forced adjournments are the only effective methods of registering concern on issues they consider important. West Bengal has had an extremely unpleasant experience, when unprecedented scenes of vandalism and destruction of public property were witnessed in the Assembly Chamber last year.

As Presiding Officer, I meet Leaders of various Political Parties in different Groups, before every Session to seek their cooperation and help for the smooth conduct of the House. While assurances of providing support are made, they are unfortunately, often breached. We all, including the Prime Minister, feel greatly troubled about these developments. It has, therefore, been decided to hold another high-level Meeting, on the lines organised by me in 2004, to discuss the steps to ensure orderly conduct of House proceedings and to reach a consensus on strategies to achieve this important objective. At this Conference, we must deliberate with due seriousness these critical issues. We may learn from one another's experiences and devise ways to end unseemly disorders and disruptions.

It is imperative to take effective steps to prevent the fast decline and deterioration in standards of legislators' behaviour. India is the largest democracy in the world and I do not perceive of any alternative to Parliamentary democracy for our country. It will make us truly proud if we can claim that our functioning is exemplary and a model for other democracies—both newly emerging and the older ones. I must confess that when the visiting foreign delegations witness scenes of disruption in the House, it is particularly painful for the Presiding Officer. Of course, they are polite and describe these as examples of vibrancy of our democracy!

To me the present tendency to show disrespect to the Chair and to violate the rules and well-established conventions, indulging in most undignified behaviour, acting in concert to force adjournments of the House, even not permitting, on many occasions, the Question Hour and debates and discussions in the House, are matters of serious concern warranting deep introspection. Gandhiji's wise advice that one should listen to others, in order to appreciate all facets of the issues, should be our guiding principle. High decibels and incapacity to communicate, should not become the hallmarks of our functioning. Sagacity, maturity, honesty of purpose and dedication to address the national problems are the need of the hour. I believe that time has come when we should give up confrontational politics and identify national issues, which are extremely important to be dealt with in our legislatures with dignity, commitment and striving and in a spirit of efficiently discharging our primary duty as people's representatives.

Friends, it is an extremely sad reflection of the lack of responsibility on the part of the legislators generally that even the Budget and Finance Bill in the Lok Sabha on several occasions had to be passed without any discussion. Many important legislations are similarly passed which is making a mockery of the very basis of the Parliamentary functioning, in which structured debate and discussion involving all sections of the House is of crucial importance.

Along with the unbecoming conduct inside the Legislative Chambers there are serious allegations, from time to time, against one or the other member or members of being guilty of corrupt practices and different types of criminal activity which put us all to shame. In these circumstances, can we blame our people for getting disillusioned about the functioning of the different Legislatures in our country and for the cynicism creeping into them about the efficacy of democratic experiments itself? This is increasingly being reflected in the apathy towards the functioning of the Parliament and the Legislatures and to the democratic process themselves and in the growing disinterest among the young educated men and women in the political activities of our country.

This very sad and depressing situation which is causing a slur on the System of Parliamentary Democracy, raising questions about the relevance of the System of Parliamentary Democracy, should not be ignored or minimized. As Presiding Officers, should we be only spectators and express our helplessness and allow the whole system to slide down causing irreparable damage to our polity? A plea is taken in many cases that because of the non-functioning or improper functioning

of the Legislative Bodies in the country, the people are forced to look up to Judiciary for remedy and action and the result is there for all to see.

The disease seems to have overtaken many of the political parties across our entire political spectrum and there is now not only confrontational politics but also competitive efforts to make the Legislature itself a victim of partisan politics. I appeal to all to ponder very seriously. We should all unitedly endeavour to enforce suitable measures, if appeals and requests fail to bear any result. We should expect exemplary behaviour from the members on all occasions and it is for the Presiding Officers also to provide, as much as possible, due opportunities to the members and particularly to the Opposition to raise matters of importance, but in no circumstances should there be any disrespect to the Chair or disturbances in the House. We cannot throw up our arms in frustration or desperation. I earnestly implore to all the legislators in this country to set norms of exemplary behaviour, so that we can be proud of the functioning of our Legislative System.

During the last Budget Session, the Lok Sabha could not transact any business for over 73 hours because of disruption and forced adjournments. This shows how deep the malady has gone. It is our bounden duty as Presiding Officer to see that our most precious Institution that the Founding Fathers have constituted, our Legislatures, do not come to a grinding halt. For dealing with such situation, I feel one of the proper remedies may be to provide for the recall of the members by their constituents for any misbehaviour in the House or for the failure to serve their electorates. I feel that it is a national duty for all of us to see that our Constitutional framework is not damaged irreparably. This is my sincere appeal not only to the Presiding Officers but also to all the Legislators in the country to respect the electoral verdict, which is to represent the people for the solution of their problems and grievances and to endeavour to fulfill the dreams, urges and aspirations of the people within our Constitutional framework.

The other subject which will be discussed at the Conference is, 'Relationship Between the Legislature and the Judiciary' the two major organs of our Constitutional set up. Our object is not to find out areas of any conflict or confrontation but to stress on areas where there should be harmonious co-operation between the two organs, consistent with the principle of Separation of Powers which, with the system of checks and balances, is one of the most characteristic features of our constitutional scheme. As has been observed by the present Chief

Justice of India Honourable Justice Balakrishnan, 'the Constitution lays down the structure and defines the limits and demarcates the role and function of every organ of the State, including the Judiciary and establishes norms for their inter relationships, checks and balances.

The Constitution does not give any unfettered power to any organ and all the three principal organs are expected to work in harmony 'in a joint and participatory role... instead of an exclusive primacy of any one in the process', to quote former Chief Justice J.S. Verma. Democracy does not contemplate any single public functionary which will have absolute power and, to my mind, our Constitution does not contemplate the existence of any Super-organ or any organ having over-riding authority on others.

The people of India occupy the pivotal role in our Constitution and it is the sovereign will of the people, which finds expression through their chosen representatives in the Parliament which has been accorded a pre-eminent position in our constitutional and political set-up, with the power, *inter alia,* to make laws, to exercise control over the nation's purse, to make the Executive accountable to the popular House and even to amend the Constitution. But obviously it has to act within the parameters laid down by the Constitution. The constitutional mandate to the Judiciary is to interpret the laws and not to make them, nor to lay down general norms of behaviour for the Government or to decide upon public policy. As I have said elsewhere, the concept is 'judicial review' and not 'judicial activism', which goes much beyond review. In my humble submission, the scope of judicial review is confined to the enquiry as to whether any impugned legislation or an executive action falls within the competence of the Legislature or of the executive authority or is consistent with the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution or with its other mandatory provisions.

The Supreme Court itself has construed the concept of Separation of Powers as a 'basic feature' of the Constitution. To my mind, that being so, necessarily, each organ of the State has been provided with separate areas of functioning, into which no other organ can enter or intervene, unless permitted by the Constitution itself and if it so does, or seeks to do, it will be contrary to one of the 'basic features' of our Constitution and this restraint is applicable to the Judiciary also.

No body can take exception to any decision taken by the Judiciary in the exercise of Judicial Review (subject, of course, to the provision of review or appeal, where it lies) invalidating any law or executive

action, but where it seeks to lay down some new policy to be adopted or actions to be taken and uses its supposed power to compel executive action on the same, without any known authority or procedure, serious questions necessarily arise about the source of such power. In my humble submission, the Judiciary cannot exercise its power of judicial review to lay down new policy nor to direct actions to be taken which are of executive nature, nor can it take upon the mantle of executive authority. As former Chief Justice Verma has expressed 'judicial activism should be neither judicial ad-hocism nor judicial tyranny'.

Recently, while delivering Dr. Kailash Nath Katju Memorial Lecture, I had an opportunity to deal with the subject of Separation of Powers under our Constitution and on Judicial Activism. In my humble view, time has come for the organs, under our constitutional set up, to introspect into their respective roles and to consider whether they are discharging their duties and functions in accordance with the constitutional mandate or whether while exercising some power they are creating avoidable tensions affecting the harmonious relationship between the organs. I am sure that all of us hold the Judiciary in highest respect and we must appreciate generally the manner in which our Judiciary has been discharging its paramount function of Judicial Review. I am sure, all the Presiding Officers are keen to see that there is no question of creating any situation, which will cause any dis-harmony in the relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary.

There are instances when questions are being, if I may say so, properly raised whether any organ has the right to exceed its authority and jurisdiction. The Jharkhand Assembly case, which raised the question, whether the Judiciary has any authority to interfere with the proceedings in the Legislature, the question of the jurisdiction of the Legislature in dealing with matters of discipline of its members and the right of the Judiciary to interfere with the same, the matter relating to the right of the Judiciary to interdict the will of the Legislature as expressed through a law passed unanimously by it, the question whether matters of policy can be decided by the Judiciary, questions arising out of the decision of the Supreme Court over-riding the effect of the 9th Schedule of the Constitution, *etc.* are matters where it is honestly perceived that the *lakshman rekha* has been crossed by the Judiciary.

Under the Constitution, the Executive is accountable to the Legislature for all its actions. As I stated in the Dr. Katju Memorial Lecture, once the Judiciary gets involved with an issue which falls within the

Executive domain, it precludes the possibility of the Legislature exercising its very important assigned role of ensuring executive accountability through effective legislative scrutiny. In my humble view, discharge of Executive responsibilities by any other authority, howsoever highly placed, but non-accountable, is anathema in a democracy. I am of the opinion that no authority can interfere with the Legislature's absolute constitutional right to enforce executive accountability. Surely, the Legislature cannot be expected to surrender its absolute power on the assumption that any other organ has inherent superiority or a monopoly of concern for the people or it can alone solve their problems. Obviously, such matters require to be debated and discussed in a proper atmosphere and with a sense of responsibility, so that the possibility of any misunderstanding, or dis-harmony between the two major organs of our State can be eliminated. I am confident that we shall discuss the matter in the Conference with full sense of responsibility and with the full respect to the judiciary and in an objective manner to ascertain the scope and ambit of the principle of Separation of Powers.

Honourable Presiding Officers, ours is the largest working democracy in the world in which the Legislatures are expected to play a crucial role in shaping the destiny of the nation. Our Legislatures not only symbolize the urges, aspirations and expectations of our people but have multi-dimensional functions to perform. Besides law-making, they are responsible for keeping a constant surveillance over the administration, for debating the policies and subjects of public importance and for articulating people's grievances. As such, the success and effectiveness of these deliberative bodies rest on their orderly functioning and also on the adherence to the highest standards of discipline, dignity and decorum. We need the cooperation and support from all the members for the smooth running of the House and for the better management of its time. In this context, the Conference of Presiding Officers is an important forum as it gives us an opportunity to share and learn from our experiences and also devise better ways of effectively regulating the proceedings in the respective Houses. I hope and trust the deliberations at this Conference will prove to be immensely productive and useful for all of us, the Presiding Officers and the members Including the Ministers.

Before I conclude, I would like to once again place on record our deep appreciation and hearty thanks to our hosts, the Honourable Chief Minister of Kerala and his colleagues, the Honourable Speaker and the Honourable Deputy Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly,

the Secretary and the Staff of the Legislature Assembly, the Government of Kerala and all those associated with the organization of this Conference here for the excellent arrangement and, of course, for their gracious hospitality.

With these words, I am immensely pleased to inaugurate the 72nd Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India.

Thank you very much.

THE THIRTEENTH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Article 62(1) of the Constitution provides that election to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of the President shall be completed before the expiration of the term.

According to article 54 of the Constitution the President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament and the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States, including the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union territory of Puducherry. Nominated members of Parliament are not entitled to vote in the Presidential Election. Article 55 of the Constitution aims at ensuring uniformity in the scale of representation of different States at the election. For securing such uniformity among the States *inter se* as well as parity between the States as a whole and the Union, the number of votes which each elected member of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly of each State is entitled to cast at such election is determined in the following manner:—

(a) Every elected member of the Legislative Assembly of a State shall have as many votes as there are multiples of one thousand in the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the State by the total number of the elected members of the Assembly;

(b) If, after taking the said multiples of one thousand, the remainder is not less than five hundred, then the vote of each member referred to in (a) above shall be further increased by one;

(c) Each elected member of either House of Parliament shall have such number of votes as may be obtained by dividing the total number of votes assigned to the members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States under (a) and (b) above by the total number of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament, fractions exceeding one-half being counted as one and other fractions being disregarded.

Article 55 also provides that election of the President shall be held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by

means of single transferable vote through secret ballot. As for population, it provides that until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2000 have been published, population shall be construed as a reference to the 1971 census figure.

The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and the Rules framed thereunder regulate all matters relating to or connected with the election of the President or the Vice-President. The Act was amended in 1974 to make certain changes in matters of elections in the light of experiences gained during the elections held previously. The changes made in the Act included enhancement of the deposit required to be made by a candidate at the time of filing his nomination paper from Rs.2,500 to Rs.15,000. The minimum number of proposers and seconders required to subscribe a valid nomination paper was also increased from one elector each as proposer and seconder to 10 electors each as proposers and seconders in 1974. The number was further increased to 50 electors each as proposers and seconders *vide* the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Act, 1997. The Act also provides that no elector shall subscribe whether as proposer or seconder more than one nomination paper at the same election, and if he/she does, his/her signatures shall be inoperative on any paper other than the one first delivered.

For each Presidential Election, the Election Commission of India, in consultation with the Government of India, appoints a Returning Officer having office in New Delhi. By convention, the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha or Lok Sabha is appointed in rotation as Returning Officer to conduct such election. For the Presidential Election, 2007, it was the turn of the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha to conduct the election. The term of office of the incumbent President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was due to expire on 24 July 2007. Accordingly, on 14 June 2007, the Election Commission of India issued a notification appointing Shri P.D.T. Achary, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha as the Returning Officer, for the Presidential Election. Shri V.K. Sharma, Joint Secretary and Shri J.P. Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Secretaries/Special Secretaries of the Legislative Assemblies of States, including the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union territory of Puducherry, were appointed as Assistant Returning Officers for the election.

The election process for electing the President was set in motion with the issue of the notification by the Election Commission of India on 16 June 2007. As per Election Commission's notification dated 16 June 2007 calling for the election to fill the Office of the President

of India, the last date of making nominations was 30 June 2007; scrutiny of nominations was to take place on 2 July 2007; the last date for withdrawal of candidatures was 4 July 2007 and the poll, if necessary, was to be held on 19 July 2007. On 16 June 2007, a Public Notice declaring the election schedule and inviting nomination papers was also issued.

The notification issued by the Election Commission and the Public Notice issued by the Returning Officer were published in the Extraordinary issue of the Gazette of India and also republished in the Extraordinary issues of the Gazettes of all the States including the National Capital Territory of Delhi and Union territory of Puducherry on that day itself.

In all, 84 nomination papers for 74 candidates were filed upto 3.00 pm on 30 June 2007. Thirty-five nomination papers were rejected under Section 5B(4) of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952. The remaining 49 nomination papers were taken up for scrutiny on 2 July 2007. After scrutiny, a total of 6 nomination papers of two candidates, namely, 4 of Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and 2 of Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat were accepted and all the others were rejected.

As neither of the candidates withdrew, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil remained in the fray, till the last date of withdrawal of the candidature was over, *i.e.*, 4 July 2007.

The polling for the Presidential Election was held from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. in Room No. 62, Parliament House and in the premises of the Legislative Assembly complex in individual States including the Union territory of Puducherry and the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The total number of electors for the election was 4,896. Out of these, 4,120 were members of the State Legislative Assemblies and 776 were members of both Houses of Parliament (543 of Lok Sabha and 233 of Rajya Sabha). The value of each vote of members of Parliament was 708. The value of the vote of each member of the Legislative Assembly varied from State to State, depending upon the strength of the Assembly as also the population as per the 1971 Census*. The lowest value of the vote was 7 in respect of the State of Sikkim while it was maximum in respect of the State of Uttar

* See Annexure for details

Pradesh which was 208. The total value of votes cast by 4,896 electors was 10,98,882. The Election Commission had permitted 10 MLAs to cast their votes in Parliament House. However, only 9 of them cast their votes in Parliament House. A total of 636 MPs voted in Parliament House and 47 MPs voted in various State Capitals where they were permitted to vote by the Election Commission.

As notified by the Election Commission of India, the counting was taken up from 11.00 a.m. in Room No.62 on 21 July 2007. Before opening the Ballot boxes, the authorized representatives of the candidates were shown the sealed boxes and the other sealed packets. The authorized representatives of the candidates were seated in front of the Table on which counting was taking place. The Election Commission Observers also remained present throughout in the Room. During the counting, the Press, including the electronic media, were permitted by the Election Commission of India from a barricaded portion in Room No. 62 to cover the process of counting. Before the counting was taken up, the Returning Officer, also read out Section 22 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 that deals with maintenance of secrecy of voting. NIC officials manned two computers where State-wise results were tabulated and a result sheet was prepared after evaluating the votes of each State using a software developed by them for this purpose. Out of a total of 4,896 votes (with a value of 10,98,882), 4,472 votes valued at 9,83,902 were polled. Seventy-eight votes valued at 14,480 were found invalid. Of the remaining 4,394 votes valued at 9,69,422, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil got 2,945 votes valued at 6,38,116 and Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat got 1,449 votes valued at 3,31,306. There was no request for recounting. Accordingly, around 5 p.m., the Returning Officer, Shri P.D.T. Achary declared Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil as duly elected to the Office of the President of India and signed the declaration.

All the important events starting from bringing of empty Ballot boxes and other relevant materials relating to the election into the Parliament House, sealing and opening of Room No.62, polling, receiving of Ballot boxes from the State Assemblies, counting, etc. were videographed by the in-house Audio Visual & Telecasting Unit of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil was sworn in as the President of India by the Chief Justice of India, Mr. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan at a solemn function held in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 25 July 2007.

The President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil

Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil being administered the oath of office of the President of India by the Chief Justice of India, Justice K.G. Balakrishnan

SMT. PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: A PROFILE

Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil was born on 19 December 1934 at Nadgaon village of Jalgaon District in Maharashtra. She received her education from the Mooljee Jetha College, Jalgaon from where she obtained her Master's degree in Political Science and Economics. Later, she obtained the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree from the Government Law College, Bombay*. While in college, she took active part in sports, excelled in table tennis and won several shields at various Inter-collegiate tournaments. Even as an MLA, she pursued her studies as a law student.

Smt. Patil started her professional career as a practising lawyer at the Jalgaon District Court and simultaneously devoted herself to various social activities, especially, for the upliftment of poor women. At the young age of 27 years, she successfully contested her first election to the Maharashtra State Legislature from the Jalgaon Assembly constituency. Subsequently, she was elected MLA consecutively for four terms from the Edlabad (Muktai Nagar) constituency till 1985. During her long stint in Maharashtra, she held various positions both in the Government and in the Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra. She was the Deputy Minister, Public Health, Prohibition, Tourism, Housing and Parliamentary Affairs (1967-1972). She also held the portfolio of the Cabinet Minister of the key Ministries in the State: Social Welfare (1972-1974); Public Health and Social Welfare (1974-1975); Prohibition, Rehabilitation and Cultural Affairs (1975-1976); Education, (1977-1978); Urban Development and Housing (1982-1983); and Civil Supplies and Social Welfare (1983-1985). While in the Opposition, she also served as the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra from July 1979 to February 1980.

Thereafter, Smt. Patil served as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha from 1985 to 1990. She was the Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha from 1986 to 1988. She also served as the Chairperson, Rajya Sabha from 25 July 1987 to 2 September 1987 when Dr. R. Venkataraman got elected as the President of India. She was the Chairperson, Committee of Privileges, Rajya Sabha and Member, Business Advisory Committee, Rajya Sabha from 1986 to 1988. Smt. Patil was elected as a Member of Parliament to the 10th Lok

* Now called Mumbai

Sabha in the 1991 General Elections from the Amravati constituency. She was the Chairperson, House Committee, Lok Sabha. Smt. Patil was appointed as the Governor of Rajasthan on 8 November 2004 and served in this position till 21 June 2007. She enjoys the unique distinction of not having lost a single election that she contested till date.

In her long public life, she has been associated with several institutions in wide ranging capacities. She served as the Chairperson, Maharashtra State Water Pollution Control Board from 1982 to 1985. She was also the President, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee from 1988 to 1990. Besides holding the position of Director and Vice-Chairperson, National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies, she also served as the Member, Governing Council, National Cooperative Union of India and Chairperson, 20-Point Programme Implementation Committee, Government of Maharashtra.

Smt. Patil has represented India at various international fora. She attended the International Council on Social Welfare Conferences at Nairobi and Puerto Rico. She was a Member of the All India Congress Committee (I) delegation to Bulgaria in 1985 and represented India as Member, Commonwealth Presiding Officers Conference in London in 1988. She led the Indian delegation to the Conference on the 'Status of Women' in Austria and was a delegate at the World Women's Conference, Beijing, China in September 1995.

Throughout her public life, Smt. Patil has worked actively for the welfare of women and children and the underprivileged sections of the society. She established several institutions for their benefit. She also played a pioneering role in setting up the Mahila Vikas Mahamandal, a Maharashtra State Government undertaking for the development of women.

She was instrumental in organizing music, computer and sewing classes for the poor and needy women at Amravati, Maharashtra. Smt. Patil also organized the Women's Home Guard in Jalgaon District and was their Commandant in 1962.

Smt. Patil is married to Dr. Devisingh Ramsingh Shekhawat, who is an educationist and a social worker in his own right. They have two children, a daughter, Smt. Jyoti Rathore and a son, Shri Rajendra Singh.

Table 1

Statement showing the value of votes of elected MPs and members of Legislative Assemblies of different States at the Presidential Election 2007@

Name of State	No. of Assembly Seats (Elective)	1971 Census population	Value of Votes	
			Of a member of Legislative Assembly	Total Votes for the State
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	294	43502708	148	148x294 = 43512
Arunachal Pradesh	60	467511	8	008x060 = 480
Assam	126	14625152	116	116x126 = 14616
Bihar	243	42126236	173	173x243 = 42039
Chhattisgarh	90	11637494	129	129x090 = 11610
Goa	40	795120	20	020x040 = 800
Gujarat	182	26697475	147	147x182 = 26754
Haryana	90	10036808	112	112x090 = 10080
Himachal Pradesh	68	3460434	51	051x068 = 3468
Jammu & Kashmir*	87	6300000	72	072x087 = 6264
Jharkhand	81	14227133	176	176x081 = 14256
Karnataka	224	29299014	131	131x224 = 29344
Kerala	140	21347375	152	152x140 = 21280
Madhya Pradesh	230	30016625	131	131x230 = 30130
Maharashtra	288	50412235	175	175x288 = 50400
Manipur	60	1072753	18	018x060 = 1080
Meghalaya	60	1011699	17	017x060 = 1020
Mizoram	40	332390	8	008x040 = 320
Nagaland	60	516449	9	009x060 = 540
Orissa	147	21944615	149	149x147 = 21903
Punjab	117	13551060	116	116x117 = 13572
Rajasthan	200	25765806	129	129x200 = 25800
Sikkim	32	209843	7	007x032 = 224
Tamil Nadu	234	41199168	176	176x234 = 41184
Tripura	60	1556342	26	026x060 = 1560
Uttarakhand	70	4491239	64	064x070 = 4480
Uttar Pradesh	403	83849905	208	208x403 = 83824
West Bengal	294	44312011	151	151x294 = 44394
NCT of Delhi	70	4065698	58	058x070 = 4060
Puducherry	30	471707	16	016x030 = 480
Total	4120	54,93,02,005		= 5,49,474

@Source: The Election Commission of India, New Delhi.
*Constitution (Application to the Jammu and Kashmir) Order.

6

THE THIRTEENTH VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The Office of the Vice-President is one of the unique features of the Constitution of India and has few parallels in the world. In the constitutional set-up, the holder to the office of Vice-President is part of the Executive but as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha he is a part of Parliament. He has thus a dual capacity and holds two distinct and separate offices. Under article 64 of the Constitution, the Vice-President is also the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Article 65(1) states that in the event of the occurrence of any vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of his death, resignation or removal, or otherwise, the Vice-President shall act as President until a new President is elected. Under article 65(2), when the President is unable to discharge his functions owing to absence, illness or any other cause, the Vice-President discharges his functions until the date on which the President resumes his duties. Article 65(3) also states that the Vice-President shall, during, and in respect of the period while he is so acting as, or discharging the functions of the President, have all powers and immunities of the President and be entitled to such emoluments, allowances and privileges as may be determined by Parliament by law and, until provision in that behalf is so made, such emoluments, allowances and privileges as are specified in the Second Schedule.

Article 68(1) states that an election to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of the Office of the Vice-President shall be completed before the expiration of the term. Under article 68(2), an election to fill a vacancy in the Office of the Vice-President occurring by reason of his death, resignation or removal, or otherwise, shall be held as soon as possible after the occurrence of the vacancy.

Article 66(1) provides that the Vice-President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot. The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for and conduct of all the elections to the Parliament and to the State Legislatures and also elections to the Office of the President and the Vice-President of India are vested with the Election Commission of

India. The Presidential and the Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and the Rules framed thereunder, *viz.* the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Election Rules, 1974, as amended from time to time, regulate all matters concerning the election to the Offices of the President and the Vice-President.

For each Vice-Presidential Election, the Election Commission of India, in consultation with the Government of India, appoints a Returning Officer having office in New Delhi. By a well-established convention, the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha or the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, is appointed in rotation as the Returning Officer* to conduct such election. For the Vice-Presidential Election, 2007, it was the turn of the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, to conduct the election.

The Thirteenth Vice-Presidential Election: The term of the incumbent Vice-President of India, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat who was sworn in on 19 August 2002, was to end on 18 August 2007 and an election to fill the vacancy had to be completed before the expiry of his term. Accordingly, the Election Commission of India issued a notification for the election to the Office of the Vice-President of India on 9 July 2007. Before the start of the election process, the Election Commission of India (under Section 3 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and Rule 9(1) of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974) in consultation with the Union Government, appointed Dr. Yogendra Narain, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha as the Returning Officer (RO) and the Presiding Officer for the Vice-Presidential Election. Shri N.C. Joshi, Additional Secretary and Shri Ravi Kant Chopra, Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat were appointed Assistant Returning Officers (AROs). A Vice-Presidential Election Cell was set up accordingly in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat to assist the Returning Officer / Assistant Returning Officers to complete the election process.

In accordance with Section 4 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, the Election Commission of India issued a Notification on 9 July 2007 fixing the following dates for various stages of the Election:-

(i) 23 July 2007 as the last date for receiving nominations;

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* For the Vice-Presidential Election, 2002, the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha was appointed as the Returning Officer. This time the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary was appointed as the Returning Officer for the Presidential Election, 2007.

(ii) 24 July 2007 as the date for the scrutiny of nominations;

(iii) 26 July 2007 as the last date for the withdrawal of candidatures; and

(iv) 10 August 2007 as the date on which poll, if necessary, was to be held

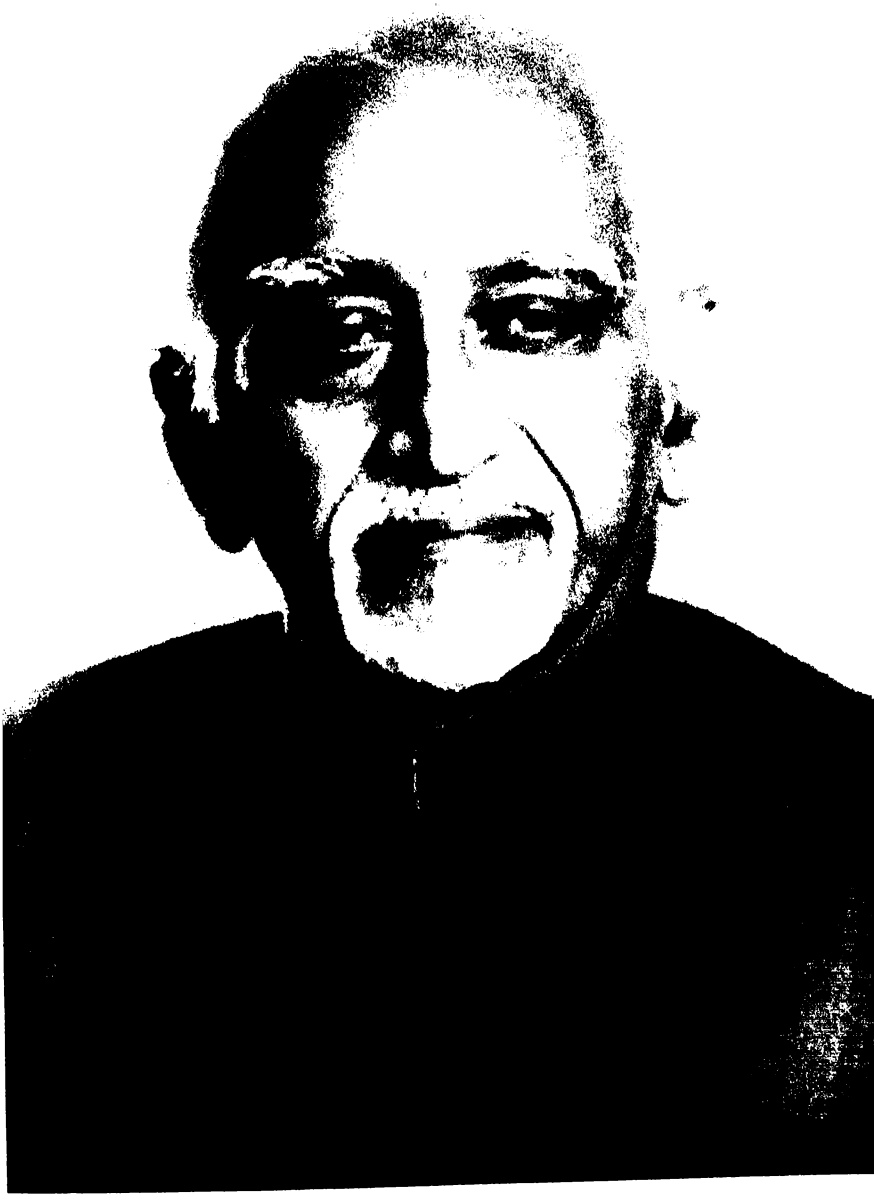
On 9 July 2007, the Returning Officer also issued a Public Notice, (under Rule 3 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974), detailing the election schedule. The notification issued by the Election Commission and the Public Notice issued by the Returning Officer were also published in the Gazette of India and the Gazettes of all the States and Union territories on the same day. Copies of the Public Notice were circulated to all the members of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha who are members of the electoral college for the election to the Office of the Vice-President.

With the issuance of the notification, the election process was set in motion. In all, 46 nomination papers were filed in respect of 33 candidates before the expiry of the last date for filing of nominations. Besides these, 6 nomination papers were received by post and hence they were not given any serial number. Twenty nomination papers were rejected as they were not accompanied by a certified copy of the entry relating to the candidate in the electoral roll.

On 24 July 2007, at 11.00 a.m., the scrutiny of 26 nomination papers was held in the Office of the Returning Officer and Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha. The Returning Officer rejected the nomination papers of 20 persons as they did not fully comply with the requisite provisions of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 read with the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974. The 6 nomination papers, 3 filed by Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, 2 by Dr. (Shrimati) Najma A. Heptulla and one by Shri Rasheed Masood fulfilled all the requirements and were therefore declared valid.

On 26 July 2007, the withdrawal of candidatures was closed at 3.00 p.m. None of the candidates whose nominations were valid, withdrew his or her candidature. A list of contesting candidates (under Rule 6 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974) was published in the Gazette of India on 26 July 2007. The list was also republished in the official Gazettes of all the States and the Union territories. Copies of the list of contesting candidates were circulated among all the members of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.

The Election Commission of India appointed Shri K.S. Ramasubban, Member (Administration), National Highways Authority of India, Ministry



The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha,
Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari

of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Government of India and Shri S.K. Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, as Observers for the election.

The polling was held on 10 August 2007 in Room No. 62, First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi. Of the 783 electors (539 from Lok Sabha and 244 from Rajya Sabha), 762 electors exercised their franchise. Of the 762 votes cast, 752 were found valid and 10 were declared invalid. Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari emerged victorious winning 455 votes. Dr. (Shrimati) Najma A. Heptulla and Shri Rasheed Masood secured 222 and 75 votes respectively. Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari was then declared duly elected as the next Vice-President of India.

Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari was sworn in as the Vice-President of India by the President, Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at a solemn function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 11 August 2007.

SHRI MOHAMMAD HAMID ANSARI: A PROFILE

Born on 1 April 1937 at Calcutta*, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari graduated in Political Science from Aligarh Muslim University. He joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1961. In a career span of thirty-five years in IFS, he has proved himself an able diplomat and represented the country in some of the most high profile diplomatic positions. During his tenure as Chief of the Protocol of the Government of India during 1980-1985, he managed large multilateral summits of the Non-Aligned Movement and Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. He was awarded *Padma Shri* in 1984.

In addition to being a diplomat, Shri Ansari has extensively written on various aspects of foreign policy, especially West Asia. He has edited a book titled "*Iran Today: Twenty Five Years After the Islamic Revolution*" and has written several academic and newspaper articles on issues of foreign policy. Another book, "*Travelling through Conflict: Essays on the Politics of West Asia*" is to be published shortly.

Shri Ansari has served as Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University during 2000-2002. He has been Visiting Professor at the Centre for West Asian and African Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and at the Academy for Third World Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi.

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* Now known as Kolkata

Shri Ansari has contributed significantly in high level Committees of the Government of India. He has been a Member of the National Security Advisory Board during 2004-2006, Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Oil Diplomacy and Co-chairman of the India-U.K. Round Table. He was also the Chairman of the Working Group on 'Confidence building measures across segments of society in the State' established by the Second Round Table Conference of the Prime Minister on Jammu & Kashmir.

Prior to his election as the Vice-President of India, Shri Ansari was the Chairman of the Fifth Statutory National Commission for Minorities during the period March 2006 to July 2007.

7

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Function to mark the 150th Anniversary of 1857 Uprising: A function to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of First War of Indian Independence was held in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 10 May 2007. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the then Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat; and the then President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam paid glowing tributes to the supreme sacrifices of all those known and unknown heroes and the martyrs of the First War of Indian Independence. Dignitaries, Ministers and members of Parliament stood in silence for a while to pay homage to the martyrs. The function commenced with the famous Ghazal of the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar *"Lagta Nahin Hai Dil Mera"* rendered by Shri Jagjit Singh, followed by rendition of poem of Smt. Subhadra Kumari Chauhan *"Bundele Harbolo ke mooh hamne suni kahani thi, khoob ladi mardani woh to Jhansi Wali Rani thi"* by Smt. Shubha Mudgal. Shri Gulzar, a well-known poet presented a special composition on the historic occasion. A 10-minute documentary on the First War of Indian Independence prepared by the Lok Sabha TV Channel was also presented on the occasion.

The 116th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia: The 116th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was held at Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, from 29 April to 4 May 2007. The Indian Delegation to this Assembly was led by the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri Ram Kripal Yadav, Ramchandra Paswan, Jesudasu Seelam, Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya and Dr. (Smt) Najma Heptulla, all members of Parliament. Shri J.P. Sharma, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The Assembly held deliberations on the following subjects and adopted resolutions thereon:

- Ensuring Respect for and Peaceful Co-existence between All Religious Communities and Beliefs in a Globalized World;

- Job Creation and Employment Security in the Era of Globalization;
- Promoting Diversity and Equal Rights for All through Universal Democratic and Electoral Standards; and
- International Cooperation to Combat Terrorism, its Root Causes and its Financing including Cross-border Funding (Adopted as the Emergency Item)

The Assembly appointed Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya, MP as one of the co-Rapporteurs of the First Standing Committee on the subject item, "The Role of Parliaments in Striking a Balance between National Security, Human Security and Individual Freedoms, and in Averting the Threat to Democracy" for consideration by the 118th IPU Assembly to be held in April 2008 in Cape Town.

The 15th Session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO: The 15th Session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 14 and 15 June 2007. Shri Rupchand Pal, MP (Lok Sabha) represented the Indian Parliament at the Session.

The Session deliberated on the ways of enhancing the efficiency of the Conference as a *de facto* parliamentary dimension of the WTO.

Regional Seminar on "Developing a Protective Environment for South Asian Children: The Role of Parliamentarians in the Protection of Children in the Juvenile Justice System" at Islamabad, Pakistan: The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) organized a Regional Seminar on "Developing a Protective Environment for South Asian Children: The Role of Parliamentarians in the Protection of Children in the Juvenile Justice System" at the invitation of the Senate of Pakistan. The Seminar was held at Islamabad, Pakistan from 27 to 29 June 2007. Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha represented the Indian Parliament at the Seminar.

The Seminar aimed at facilitating debate on ways and mechanisms of developing a protective framework for children, with particular focus on parliamentary mechanisms. The Seminar addressed all the functions of a Parliament–legislation, oversight and representation–and examined how these can serve to protect children.

The following subjects were deliberated upon during the Seminar:

- The Human Rights-based Approach to Legislative Reform and the Child Rights-based Approach;

- Legislating for Child Protection;
- Overseeing Government's Action for Child Protection;
- Justice for Children;
- Juvenile Justice in South Asia;
- Global Juvenile Justice Indicators; and
- The Role of Parliamentarians in Working towards Protective Environment for Children in Conflict with the Law

The Fifth International Tourism Forum for Parliamentarians and Local Authorities at Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia: The Fifth International Tourism Forum for Parliamentarians and Local Authorities was held at Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia from 13 to 15 June 2007.

The Delegation comprised Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmariya, Shri Madan Lal Sharma and Shri Shahid Siddiqui, all members of Parliament. Shri Cyril John, Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The following two subjects were discussed in the plenary session of the Forum:

- Making Harmonious Tourism Growth Possible and Strengthening its Resilience to Crises; and
- Fostering the Sustainability of Tourism Development

Besides the plenary session, the following two subjects were also discussed in Workshops organized during the Forum:

- Decentralization and Competitiveness of Destinations; and
- Inter-ministerial Coordination and Coherence of Tourism Policies.

Mid-year CPA Executive Committee Meeting at Limassol, Cyprus: The mid-year meeting of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was held at Limassol, Cyprus from 16 to 21 April 2007. Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker, Lok Sabha and the then President of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association; Smt. C.S. Sujatha, MP and Regional Representative from India Region; Shri Hashim Abdul Halim, the Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly and Chairman, CPA Executive Committee; Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy, the Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Regional Representative from India; Smt. Sumitra Singh, the Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative

Assembly and Regional Representative from India Region; and Shri P.D.T. Achary, Secretary General, Lok Sabha and Regional Secretary of India Region attended the meeting.

CPA Workshop on "Gender Equality": The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Workshop on Gender Equality was held in Maldives from 16 to 18 April 2007. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, MP (Lok Sabha) represented CPA India Region in the Workshop. The following major topics were discussed during the Workshop:

- Gender and Democracy: the Role of International and Regional Organizations in Promoting Women's Political Participation;
- Constitutional Reforms and Politics: Review of Political Systems, Political Party Manifestoes, Specific Measures/ Quotas, Elections and Campaigns;
- Women in Leadership, Decision-Making and Parliament: Making a Difference;
- Decentralization and Balancing the Gender Agenda: Overview of Local Governments, Grass-roots Mobilization and the Role of Civil Societies and the Media in Increasing Women's Participation; and
- Bridging the Generational Gap: Sustaining Progress, Mentorship and Leadership Training for Young People

The Parliamentarians Forum on "Women and Leadership in a Democracy" at Kampala, Uganda: The Parliamentarians Forum on "Women and Leadership in a Democracy" was held at Kampala, Uganda from 7 to 10 June 2007. Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, the Minister of Women and Child Development and the President of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) participated in the Forum. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Secretariat and the Parliament of Uganda jointly organized the event. The following topics were discussed at the Forum:

- Women in Leadership and Democracy: Frameworks, Commitments, Overview of Progress, Achievements, Gaps, Strategies and Challenges;
- Constitutional Reforms and Politics: Review of Political Systems, Political Party Manifestoes, Specific Measures/ Quotas, Elections and Campaigns;
- Women in Leadership, Decision-Making and Parliament: Making a Difference; and

- Women in Leadership, Decision-Making in Societies: Civil Societies Making a Difference

CPA UK Branch Seminar: The United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association organized a Seminar in London from 10 to 22 June 2007. Shri C.K. Chandrappan, MP (Lok Sabha) attended the Seminar as representative from CPA India Region. The main objectives of the Seminar were to give delegates an insight into the parliamentary and political scene at Westminster, devolution and local government in the UK, supranational governance and its implications for the UK, the contribution of the CPA within the Commonwealth and the opportunity to engage with colleagues in the CPA UK Branch. The Seminar also included visits to parliamentary constituencies and the European Parliament in Brussels.

The 72nd Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India: The 72nd Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India, hosted by the Kerala Legislative Assembly, was held at Thiruvananthapuram on 25 and 26 May 2007. The Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference, Shri Somnath Chatterjee presided over the Conference. The Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly, Shri K. Radhakrishnan was elected as Co-Chairman of the Conference. The Conference was attended by almost all the Presiding Officers of the Legislative Bodies in India. During the Conference, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Somnath Chatterjee inaugurated two Exhibitions, *viz.* (i) *Parliamentary Democracy in India: A Success Story,* set up by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat in collaboration with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP); and (ii) *Glimpses from the History of Parliamentary Bodies in Kerala*, set up by the Kerala Legislative Assembly.

The Conference discussed the following items on the Agenda:

- Indiscipline including Disregard of Presiding Officers, Disturbances, Disruptions and Other Serious Acts of Misconduct in Legislatures–Future Strategies to Improve the Situation
- Relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary

The Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan and the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal also attended the Conference and participated in the discussions.

The following two Resolutions were adopted at the Conference unanimously:

(i) The Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India having assembled in their 72nd Conference in Thiruvananthapuram on 25 and 26 May 2007 express their deep anguish and grave concern over the disturbing trend of disorderly conduct by legislators which is systematically eroding the very credibility of legislators and the legislatures.

The Conference also express their sense of shock and outrage over the grossly disorderly incident which took place some time back in a legislature resulting in injuries to many members and persons and destruction of priceless objects of heritage value.

The Conference are of the view that every act of disorderly or unruly conduct by legislators not only projects them in a poor light but tends to strike at the very root of democracy and destroys its credibility.

The Conference strongly condemn all incidents of disorderly conduct by members inside the House including acts of defiance of the authority of the Presiding Officers and also the senseless acts of violence and destruction at the hands of those who are supposed to preserve and enhance the dignity of the legislatures by their decorous conduct inside and outside the House. Such acts by legislators amount to indulging in conduct totally inconsistent with the obligations of the legislators not only to their electors but also to the legislatures and to the country's democratic polity as enshrined in our Constitution.

The Conference strongly feel that all such acts of violence and disorderly conduct in legislatures call for exemplary punitive action to prevent irreparable damage to the whole institution of parliamentary democracy and the erosion of people's faith in the system adopted by our founding fathers.

(ii) The Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India, assembled in their 72nd Conference in Thiruvananthapuram on 26 May 2007 note with concern the trend of interference in the functioning of the Legislature leading to avoidable tension in the relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary.

The Conference observes that according to the scheme of our Constitution, the three main organs of the State, that is, the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary function independently within their own spheres free from interference by the other two and that the Constitution clearly defines their powers and jurisdictions; demarcates their responsibilities; and regulates their relationship with one another.

The Conference reiterates that the powers, privileges and immunities of the Legislature are the Constitutional underpinning of the system of responsible Government for they ensure that the Constitutional function performed by this organ is immune from the interference by either the Executive or the Judiciary.

The Conference, accordingly, resolves that as the Constitution does not contemplate any super organ having overriding authority over the other, the Legislature, as the supreme legislative and representative body, which gives voice to the hopes and aspirations of the teeming millions of this country, is entitled to function without any interference from any other authority which is not accountable to the people and that all organs of the State strictly adhere to the functions and jurisdictions assigned to them by the Constitution so as to ensure the harmonious working of the democratic system in the country.

Symposium on "Ethics in Public Life": The 72nd Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was followed by a Symposium on "Ethics in Public Life" on 27 May 2007. The Symposium was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri V.S. Achuthanandan. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal presided over the Symposium and delivered the Opening Address. The Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly, Shri K. Radhakrishnan delivered the Welcome Address. The Presiding Officers of the Legislative Bodies in India, members of Parliament from Kerala and members of Kerala Legislative Assembly participated in the Symposium.

The Fiftieth Conference of the Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India: The Conference of Presiding Officers was preceded by the Fiftieth Conference of the Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India on 24 May 2007. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference, Shri P.D.T. Achary delivered the Inaugural Address. The Secretary, Kerala Legislative Assembly, Dr. N.K. Jayakumar delivered the Welcome Address. The then Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Yogendra Narain also addressed the Conference. The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of almost all the State/Union territory Legislatures attended the Conference.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organized under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay tributes to the

leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat are brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period from 1 April to 30 June 2007:

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a function was held on 14 April 2007. The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil; the Minister of Power, Shri Sushilkumar Shinde; the Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri P.R. Kyndiah; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Suresh Pachauri; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Pandit Motilal Nehru: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Motilal Nehru, a function was held on 6 May 2007. The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Chairperson of United Progressive Alliance, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Minister of Law and Justice, Shri H.R. Bhardwaj; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Suresh Pachauri; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, a function was held on 9 May 2007. The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Chairperson of United Progressive Alliance, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Minister of Law and Justice, Shri H.R. Bhardwaj; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Suresh Pachauri; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, a function was held on 28 May 2007. The Leader of Opposition in Lok

Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Jaswant Singh; members of Parliament: and former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

Foreign Parliamentary Delegation Visiting India

Cuba: A 4-member Cuban Parliamentary Delegation led by Mr. Jaime Crombet Hernandez Banquero, Vice-President of National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba visited India from 5 to 10 May 2007.

On 7 May 2007, the Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal hosted a banquet in honour of the Delegation the same evening.

On 8 May 2007, the Delegation had a luncheon meeting with the India-Cuban Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, MP and President of the Group. On the same day, the Delegation called on the then Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Anand Sharma.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra.

Meeting of Parliamentary Friendship Groups

India-Vietnam: A meeting of India-Vietnam Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Shri N. Janardhana Reddy, MP and President of the Group with Mr. Vu Mao, Chairman of the External Affairs Committee, National Assembly of Vietnam was held on 8 May 2007.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period 1 April to 30 June 2007, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training organised the following courses/programmes:

Lecture Series for Members: As part of the Lecture Series for Members of Parliament, which was started during the Fifth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, the following lectures were organized:

(i) Lecture on "Perspectives on the 1857 Uprising" by Prof. Irfan Habib, Head of the Department of History (Retd.), Aligarh Muslim University, was held on 9 May 2007; and

(ii) Lecture on "Crises in the Indian Agriculture" by Prof. M.S

Swaminathan, Member of Parliament, was held on 17 May 2007.

Training Classes: Training Classes in Hindi for non-Hindi speaking members of Lok Sabha were organised from 26 April to 22 May 2007.

Study Visits: During the period the following Study Visits were organized by the Bureau: (i) Study Visit by 26-member Delegation from the National Defence College, Greece on 3 May 2007; (ii) Study Visit by 9-member Parliamentary Delegation from Vietnam, from 5 to 9 May 2007; (iii) Study Visit by 24-member Delegation from the Nigerian War College on 7 May 2007; (iv) Study Visit by the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, United Republic of Tanzania, from 14 to 21 May 2007; and (v) Study Visit by Mr. David French, Chief Executive of the Westminster Foundation of Democracy, on 30 May 2007.

Besides, five other Study Visits were conducted for the benefit of students, officials of various schools/colleges/organizations. A total of 114 participants attended these visits.

Appreciation Courses: During the period, Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedure were organised for: (i) Probationers of various Central Accounts and Finance Services from 23 to 27 April 2007; and (ii) Probationers of Indian Administrative Service from 14 to 18 May 2007.

Training Programmes/Courses: The Bureau also organized (i) Training Programme for the Officials of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats working in the Financial Committees from 14 to 18 May 2007; (ii) Training Programme on Noting, Drafting and Office Procedure for the Executive Assistants and Senior Assistants of Lok Sabha Secretariat from 11 to 14 June 2007; (iii) Computer Training Programme for the Officers of Editorial and Translation Service from 4 to 8 June 2007; (iv) Computer Training Programme for the Officers and Staff of the Committee Branches of Lok Sabha Secretariat from 4 to 8 June 2007; and (v) Computer Training Programme for the Officers of Editorial and Translation Service, Officers and Staff of the Committee Branches, Lok Sabha Secretariat from 11 to 15 June 2007.

8

PRIVILEGE ISSUES

LOK SABHA

During the period (1 April to 30 June 2007), one sitting of the Committee of Privileges was held on 11 April 2007. The Committee (i) considered and adopted the draft Report on the question of privilege given by Shri D.P. Yadav, MP against the District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and Dy. Superintendent of Police, Madhubani, Bihar for allegedly detaining him without genuine grounds; (ii) held discussion on parliamentary privileges, codification and other related matters; and (iii) considered the matter regarding request from Courts and investigating agencies for documents pertaining to proceedings of the House/Committee and documents in the custody of the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha for production in courts of Law for investigating purposes.

No meeting of Committee on Ethics was held during the period.

II

Committee to Inquire into Misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha

On 26 April 2007 and 16 May 2007, the Speaker, Lok Sabha made observations regarding (i) Misconduct of a Member and (ii) formation of the Committee to Inquire into Misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha, respectively.

On 26 April 2007, the Speaker, Lok Sabha made the following observation regarding arrest of Shri Babubhai K. Katara, MP under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Passport Act:–

> "Honourable members, on 18 April 2007, a communication was received in my office from the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Indira Gandhi International Airport Unit intimating about the arrest of Shri Babubhai K. Katara, MP, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Passport Act. The Member concerned is now under police custody.
>
> I discussed the matter with the honourable Leaders of different parties yesterday, and it was unanimously agreed that the House should not only express its concern but should also condemn the commission of the alleged offence by the

Member of this august House. Accordingly, on behalf of the House and on my behalf, I strongly disapprove the conduct of the Member and condemn the same.

I wish to state that the House is distressed and expresses its firm determination to take all necessary action, so that the dignity of the House is not tarnished.

Considering the gravity of the situation, I propose to hold a meeting of the honourable Leaders of different parties in the House, so that a course of action can be decided upon as to how such matters may be dealt with in future so that the prestige of this great institution is upheld.

In these circumstances, I request Shri Katara not to attend the sittings of the House till the matter has been deliberated upon by the Leaders and a decision is taken."

On 16 May 2007, the Speaker made the following observation regarding constitution of a Committee to Inquire into Misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha:–

"Honourable members may recall that on 26 April 2007, I had requested Shri Babubhai K. Katara, MP not to attend the sittings of the House till the matter against him under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Passport Act had been deliberated upon by the Leaders and a decision taken in that regard. I had also observed that considering the gravity of the situation, I would hold a meeting of the honourable Leaders so that a course of action can be decided upon as to how such matters may be dealt with in future so that the prestige of this great institution is upheld.

I held a meeting with the honourable Leaders of different parties on 15 May 2007 to deliberate upon the matter. I am thankful to all the honourable Leaders for their very valuable suggestions in the matter. Honourable Leaders were unanimously of the view that a Committee of Members of Lok Sabha may be constituted to inquire into instances of misconduct including misuse of their privileges and facilities by members of the Lok Sabha.

I have, accordingly, decided to constitute a Committee consisting of the following members:

1. Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo-Chairman
2. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta
3. Shri Anant Gangaram Geete
4. Shri C. Kuppusami

5. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra
6. Shri Shriniwas Patil
7. Shri Mohammad Salim
8. Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy
9. Shri Rajesh Verma
10. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav
11. Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav

The Committee will inquire into cases of misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha including misuse of parliamentary privileges and facilities by them as may be referred to it by the Speaker from time to time and will recommend action, if any, to be taken in each case and submit the same to the Speaker.

The Committee may also, if it deems fit, look into the desirability of defining what acts would amount to misconduct on the part of a member and make suitable recommendations regarding action to be taken in cases of such misconduct.

The Committee is authorized to follow its own procedure consistent with the well-established principle of law and natural justice.

The Committee will endeavour to submit its report ordinarily within one month of the reference of any matter by the Speaker.

The Speaker will decide whether the member or members concerned in each case will be asked not to attend the House till a suitable decision is taken after the submission of the Report by the Committee.

Shri Babubhai Katara is requested, not to attend the sitting of the House unless he is permitted to do so by the Speaker".

The Inquiry Committee held three sittings during the period under review. At its meeting held on 18 May 2007, the Inquiry Committee held preliminary deliberations regarding definition of misconduct of members of the Lok Sabha while at its meeting held on 29 May 2007, the Committee held further deliberations in the matter.

At its meeting held on 14 June 2007, the Committee took up the complaint of Smt. Pramila Kumari Manjhi, spouse of Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi, MP against him for his alleged misconduct, a matter which was referred to the Committee by the Speaker, Lok Sabha for inquiry and report on 18 May 2007. The Committee took oral evidence of Smt. Pramila Kumari Manjhi, and Shri Kauslendra Kumar Sinha, Personal Assistant of the Member in the matter.

9

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Instances when the Chair allowed members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 28 April 2007, during discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants relating to Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 2007-08, the Chair permitted seven members to lay their written speeches on the Table of House.

Instances when the Chair allowed members, whose names were not in the List of Business, to ask clarificatory questions on the Calling Attention Motions: On 7 May 2007, the Speaker allowed four members, Sarvashri Shailendra Kumar, Rupchand Pal, M.A. Kharabela Swain and Varkala Radhakrishnan, whose names were not in the List of Business to ask clarificatory questions on Calling Attention regarding need to increase the interest rate of small saving in Post Office.

On 8 May 2007, the Speaker allowed three members, Sarvashri Kharabela Swain, Prasanna Acharya and Dharmendra Pradhan, whose names were not in the List of Business to ask clarificatory questions on Calling Attention regarding need to set up an Indian Institute of Technology in Orissa.

On 16 May 2007, the Speaker allowed Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, member, whose name was not in the List of Business to ask clarificatory questions on Calling Attention regarding Sethusamudram Canal Project and reported controversy regarding its alignment.

10

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2007)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and, as such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Budget Session of Parliament: The Second Part of the Tenth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha and the Two Hundred and Tenth Session of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 26 April 2007. The two Houses were adjourned *sine die* on 17 May 2007. The President prorogued both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 21 May 2007.

Minor Reshuffle of Cabinet: On 14 May 2007, Union Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Shri Dayanidhi Maran resigned from the Cabinet. On 15 May 2007, Shri A. Raja was appointed as the new Communications and Information Technology Minister in the Union Cabinet.

With Shri Raja moving from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, another DMK nominee, Shri S. Regupathy, who was Minister of State for Home, has taken Shri Raja's place, as Minister of State.

The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh will look after Environment and Forests portfolio.

Induction of Minister of State: On 18 May 2007, Smt. V. Radhika Selvi was sworn in as the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Suspension of BJP MP: On 18 April 2007, the Bharatiya Janata Party suspended Lok Sabha member Shri Babubhai Katara from the party. Shri Katara was arrested earlier in the day at the Indira Gandhi

International Airport on charges, including impersonation, of trying to take a woman and a teenaged boy to Canada on the diplomatic passports of his wife and son.

Resignation of Lok Sabha Member: On 8 May 2007, Shri Churchil Braz Alemao of the Indian National Congress (INC) resigned from his Mormugao (Goa) Lok Sabha constituency.

Nominated members of Rajya Sabha: On 10 April 2007, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan and Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan were nominated to the Rajya Sabha. The term of both the nominated members commenced on the same day. Prof. M.S. Swaminathan and Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan took oath/affirmation on 26 April 2007 and 3 May 2007, respectively.

Elections to Rajya Sabha: On 17 May 2007, Prime Minister and Indian National Congress (INC) candidate Dr. Manmohan Singh was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Assam. Dr. Manmohan Singh's term commenced on 15 June 2007 and he took oath/affirmation on the same day.

Also, on 17 May 2007, Shri Mohammed Amin of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [(CPI (M)], and Shri Kumar Deepak Das of the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) were elected to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal and Assam, respectively. Shri Mohammed Amin's term commenced the same day and he took oath/affirmation on 5 June 2007.

Shri Kumar Deepak Das's term commenced on 15 June 2007 and he took oath/affirmation on the same day.

Lok Sabha By-elections Results: On 12 April 2007, Advocate Vasantarao J. More of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Shri Jawale Haribhau Madhav of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and Shri Prakash Bhagwantrao Jadhav of the Shiv Sena were declared elected from Erandol, Jalgaon and Ramtek Lok Sabha constituencies (Maharashtra) respectively, by-elections for which were held on 9 April 2007. They took oath/affirmation on 26 April 2007.

On 11 May 2007, Shri Anil Shukla Warsi of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) was declared elected from Bilhaur Lok Sabha constituency (Uttar Pradesh), by-election to which was held on 7 April 2007. Shri Warsi took oath/affirmation on 15 May 2007.

On 11 May and 12 May 2007, Shri Ramesh Dubey and Shri Bhai Lal, both of the BSP were declared elected from Mirzapur and Robertsganj (Uttar Pradesh) Lok Sabha constituencies, respectively, by-elections for which were held on 3 May 2007.

Shri Bhai Lal and Shri Ramesh Dubey took oath/affirmation on 14 and 15 May 2007, respectively.

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

Expansion of Cabinet: On 26 April 2007, Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy inducted 17 new members into his Cabinet and reshuffled portfolios of several senior Ministers.

The names of the members of the Council of Ministers with their portfolios* is as follows: Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, Chief Minister, *General Administration, Law* and *Order* and all other portfolios not allocated to other Ministers; Sarvashri G. Vinod, *Labour & Employment, Factories & Boilers;* Vijayarama Raju Satrucharla, *Forest, Environment, Science* and *Technology;* Pinnamaneni Venkateswara Rao, *Rural Water Supply;* Gollapalli Surya Rao, *Small Scale Industries* and *Khadi & Village Industries Board;* D. Srinivas, *Higher Education* and *Intermediate Education;* B. Satyanarayana, *Housing, Weaker Section Housing Programme, A.P. Cooperative Housing Societies Federation* and *Housing Board;* Koneru Ranga Rao, *Municipal Administration* and *Urban Development;* Jakkampudi Ramamohana Rao, *Excise* and *Prohibition;* N. Raghuveera Reddy, *Agriculture, Agriculture Technology Mission, Horticulture, Sericulture, Rain Shadow Area Development;* M. Mareppa, *Marketing* and *Warehousing;* Lakshminarayana Kanna, *Transport;* Ponnala Lakshmaiah, *Major Irrigation* and *Medium Irrigation;* K. Jana Reddy, *Home, Jails, Fire Service, Sainik Welfare, Printing & Stationery;* Mohammed Fareeduddin, *Cooperation;* J.C. Diwakar Reddy, *Panchayat Raj;* Radya Naik Dharmsoth, *Tribal Welfare, Remote* and *Interior Areas Development;* Shabbir Ali Mohd., *Energy, Coal, Minorities Welfare, Wakf, Urdu Academy;* D. Prasada Rao, *Revenue, Relief & Rehabilitation* and *Urban Land Ceiling;* Konathala Ramakrishna, *Commercial Taxes;* Rosaiah Konejeti, *Finance, Planning, Small Savings, Lotteries* and *Legislative Affairs;* Buddha Prasad Mandali, *Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Veterinary University, Fisheries;* Chandra Sekher Sambani, *Health* and *Family Welfare;* Chengareddy Reddyvari, *Law & Courts, Technical Education* and *Industrial Training Institutes;* Chinna Reddy G., *Rural Development, National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, Self Help Groups;* Damodar Rajanarasimha C., *School Education, Government Examinations, State Council of Educational Research* and *Training Text Book Press, Residential Schools Society,*

* As on 14 September 2007

Hyderabad Public School; Damodar Reddy Ramireddy, *Information Technology & Communications , Youth Services* and *Sports;* Hanumantha Rao Murugudu, *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, District Primary Education Programme, Adult Education, Open Schools, Public Libraries, Jawahar Bal Bhavan, Mahila Samata Society, State Institute of Education Technology;* Mukesh Goud M., *Backward Classes Welfare;* Ramnarayana Reddy Anam, *Information & Public Relations, Cinematography, Tourism, Culture, Archaeology* and *Museums, Archives;* Rathnakar Rao Juvvadi, *Endowments, Stamps* and *Registration;* Subas Chandra Bose Pilli, *Social Welfare;* Venkata Krishna Reddy Kasu, *Food, Civil Supplies, Legal Metrology, Consumer Affairs;* Venkata Ramana Rao Mopidevi, *Infrastructure & Investment, Ports, Airports, Natural Gas;* Venkateswara Rao Maganti, *Minor Irrigation, Lift Irrigation, A.P. Water Resource Development Corporation, Water and Land Management Training and Research Institute (WALAMTARI), Ground Water Development;* Venkateswara Rao Vanama, *Vidya Vidhana Parishad* and *Hospital Services;* Jeevan Reddy T., *Roads* and *Buildings;* Dr. Geetha Reddy J., *Major Industries, Sugar, Commerce & Export Promotion;* Smt. Rajyalakshmi Nedurumalli, *Women Development & Child Welfare, Disabled Welfare* and *Juvenile Welfare;* Smt. P. Sabita Reddy, *Mines* and *Geology, Handlooms* and *Textiles, Spinning Mills;* and Smt. Aruna Kumari Galla, *Medical Education* and *Health Insurance.*

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Resignation of Eight BJP MLAs: On 5 June 2007, eight MLAs of the nine-member BJP Legislature Party resigned from the Party and joined the Indian National Congress. The eight MLAs are: Sarvashri Kameng Dolo, Tapang Taloh, C.T. Mein, Balo Raja, Tani Loffa, Kipa Babu, Techi Hemu, and Bosiram Siram.

DELHI

New Lieutenant-Governor: On 9 April 2007, Shri Tejendra Khanna was sworn in as the Lieutenant-Governor of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, replacing Shri B.L. Joshi.

Death of former Lieutenant-Governor: On 6 April 2007, Former Lt. Governor of Delhi, Shri Markandey Singh, passed away.

GOA

Assembly Election Results: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 2 June 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Total seats: 40; Indian National Congress (INC):

16; Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP): 14; Nationalist Congress Party (NCP): 3; Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP): 2; Save Goa Front (SGF): 2; United Goans Democratic Party (UGDP): 1; and Independents: 2.

New Chief Minister: On 8 June 2007, a new coalition Government headed by Shri Digambar V. Kamat of the INC was sworn in. With him, Sarvashri Ravi Naik, Jose Philip D'Souza and Ramkrishna *alias* Sudin Dhavalikar were also sworn in. The coalition Government comprises 16 MLAs of the Congress, three of the NCP, two of the MGP and independents Shri Vishwajit Pratapsingh Rane and Shri Anil Salgaoncar.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 25 June 2007, Chief Minister Shri Digambar Kamat inducted eight more Ministers into his Cabinet. The Ministers are: Sarvashri Dayanand Narvekar, Filipe Neri Rodrigues, Joaquim Alemao, Manohar Azgaonkar, Pandurang Madkaikar, Aleixo Sequeira, Francisco *alias* Micky Pacheco and Vishwajit Pratapsingh Rane.

The Chief Minister had not allotted any portfolio to those sworn in on 8 and 25 June 2007.

MEGHALAYA

New Governor: On 12 April 2007, Shri B.L. Joshi was sworn in as the Governor of Meghalaya, replacing Shri M.M. Jacob.

PUDUCHERRY

Three Nominated Members Sworn in: On 23 April 2007, Speaker Shri R. Radhakrishnan administered the oath to three members Sarvashri T. Thiagarajan (INC), N. Kalainathan (Communist Party of India) and N. G. Panneerselvam (Pattali Makkal Katchi) inducting them as nominated members of the Union territorial Assembly.

UTTARAKHAND

Resignation of MLA: On 7 June 2007, Lt. General (Retd.) T.P.S. Rawat, an INC MLA resigned from the State Legislative Assembly and joined the BJP.

UTTAR PRADESH

Assembly Election Results: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held in seven phases on 7, 13, 18, 23 and 28 April, 3 and 8 May 2007. The party position following the elections is as

follows: Total seats: 403; Bahujan Samaj Party: 206; Samajwadi Party: 97; Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP): 51; Indian National Congress (INC): 22; Rashtriya Lok Dal: 10; Rashtriya Parivartan Dal (RPD): 2; Janata Dal (United): 1; Akhil Bharatiya Loktantrik Congress (ABLTC): 1; Bharatiya Jan Shakti (BJSH): 1; Jan Morcha (JM): 1; Rashtriya Swabhimaan Party (RSBP): 1; Uttar Pradesh United Democratic Front (UPUDF): 1; and Independents: 9.

Mayawati Sworn in as Chief Minister: On 13 May 2007, Km. Mayawati was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. Besides her, 19 Cabinet Ministers, 20 Ministers of State (Independent Charge) and nine Ministers of State also assumed office.

The Cabinet Ministers are: Sarvashri Ramveer Upadhayay, Lal Ji Verma, Indrajeet Saroj, Sukhdeo Rajbhar, Thakur Jaiveer Singh, Nasimuddin, Guru Prasad Maurya, Vedram Bhati, Laxmi Narayan, Rakesh Dhar Tripathi, Babu Singh Kushwaha, Jagdish Narain, Phagoo, Nakul Dubey, Daddu Prashad, Narayan Singh, Sudhir Goyal, Ram Prasad Chaudhary and Dr. Dharam Singh Saini.

The Ministers of State (Independent Charge) are: Sarvashri Ram Achal Rajbhar, Anees Ahmad Khan, Ayodhya Prasad Pal, Jamuna Nishad, Badshah Singh, Rang Nath Mishra, Vinod Kumar, Fateh Bahadur, Lakhiram Nagar, Avadhesh Kumar Verma, Raghu Nath Prasad, Ramhet Bharti, Ram Pal Verma, Anant Kumar Mishra, Avadhpal Singh Yadav, Akbar Husain, Sadal Prasad, Yashwant, Ratan Lal Ahirwar, and Smt. Omwati Devi.

The Ministers of State are: Sarvashri Sangram Singh, Abdul Mannan, Yograj Singh, Rajesh Tripathi, Shazil Islam Ansari, Daddan, Hari Om, Yash Pal Singh and Ms. Vidya Chaudhary.

Resignation of Minister: On 13 May 2007, Shri Sukhdeo Rajbhar resigned from the Mayawati's Cabinet. Shri Satish Chandra Mishra was inducted as the Cabinet Minister.

New Speaker: On 18 May 2007, Shri Sukhdeo Rajbhar, was elected as the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

EVENTS ABROAD

ALGERIA

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 389-seat National Assembly (the lower house of the Bicameral Legislature) was held on 17 May 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: National Liberation Front: 136; National Democratic Rally: 62; Movement of

Society for Peace: 51; Workers' Party: 26; Rally for Culture and Democracy: 19; Algerian National Front: 13; National Movement for Nature and Development: 7; Ennahda Movement: 5; Democratic Youth Movement: 5; National Republican Alliance: 4; National Entente Movement: 4; Algerian Renewal Party: 4; National Reform Movement (Islah): 3; Al-Infitah Movement: 3; National Front of Independents for Understanding: 3; Ahd 54: 2; National Party for Solidarity and Development: 2; National Movement of Hope: 2; Republican Patriotic Rally: 2; Algerian Rally: 1; National Democratic Front: 1; Democratic and Social Movement: 1; and Independents: 33.

ARMENIA

New Prime Minister: On 4 April 2007, President Mr. Robert Kocharian appointed Mr. Serzh Sarkisian as the new Prime Minister. Mr. Sarkisian replaced Mr. Andranik Markarian who had died following a heart attack on 25 March 2007.

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 131-seat National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 12 May 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Republican Party of Armenia: 64; Prosperous Armenia Party:24; Armenian Revolutionary Federation: 16; Country of Law Party: 9; Heritage Party: 7; and others: 11.

New Government: On 8 June 2007, President Mr. Robert Kocharian signed a decree endorsing the composition of a new Government. The new Government contained members of Prime Minister, Mr. Serzh Sarkisian's Republican Party of Armenia and the Prosperous Armenia Party, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, and the National Solidarity Party which together controlled at least 104 of the 131 seats in the new National Assembly.

BAHAMAS

Legislative Elections: Elections to the 41-seat House of Assembly (the lower House of the Bicameral Legislature) were held on 2 May 2007. The Opposition Free National Movement (FNM) secured 23 seats while the ruling Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) won 18 seats.

New Prime Minister: On 4 May 2007, Mr. Hubert Ingraham of the FNM was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Bahamas.

BELGIUM

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 150-seat Chamber of

Representatives and the 40-seat Senate (the lower and upper houses of the federal Legislature) were held on 10 June 2007.

The party position following the elections to the 150-seat Chamber of Representatives is as follows: Christian Democrats and Flemish: 30; Reform Movement: 23; Socialist Party-Walloon: 20; Flemish Liberals and Democrats: 18; Flemish Interest: 17; Social Progressive Alternative Party: 14; Democratic and Humanist Centre: 10; Ecologist Party: 8; Dedecker List: 5; Green: 4; and National Front: 1.

The party position following the elections to the 40-seat Senate is as follows: Christian Democrats and Flemish: 9; Reform Movement: 6; Flemish Liberals and Democrats: 5; Flemish Interest: 5; Socialist Party—Walloon: 4; Social Progressive Alternative Party: 4; Democratic and Humanist Centre: 2; Ecologist Party: 2; Green: 1; Dedecker List: 1; and National Front: 1.

BURKINA FASO

Legislative Elections: Elections to the 111-seat National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 6 May 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Congress for Democracy and Progress (CDP): 73; Alliance for Democracy and Federation-African Democratic Rally (ADF-RDA): 14; Union for the Republic (UPR): 5; Union for Rebirth/Sankarist Movement (UNIR/MS): 4; Convention of the Democratic Forces of Burkina (CFD-B): 3; Union of Sankarist Parties (UPS): 2; Party for Democracy and Progress/Party for Democracy and Progress-Socialist Party (PDP-PS): 2; Rally for the Development of Burkina (RDB): 2; Party for Democracy and Socialism (PDS): 2; Party for National Rebirth (PAREN): 1; African Independence Party: 1; Citizens' Popular Rally: 1; and Union for Democracy and Social Progress: 1.

New Prime Minister: On 3 June 2007, Prime Minister Mr. Paramanga Ernest Yoli resigned. Mr. Tertius Zongo was sworn in as the new Prime Minister on 5 June 2007.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Election of Senate Speaker: On 11 May 2007, Mr. Leon Kengo wa Dondo, was elected as the Speaker of the Senate (the Upper House of the Bicameral Legislature).

EAST TIMOR

President Elected: Mr. Jose Ramos Horta was elected as the President of East Timor, in the elections held for the post on 9 May 2007.

FRANCE

New President: On 6 May 2007, Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy was elected as the new President and was sworn in on 16 May 2007.

National Assembly Elections: Elections to the 577-seat National Assembly (the lower house of the Bicameral Legislature) were held on 10 and 17 June 2007.

The party position following the elections is as follows: Union for a Popular Movement: 313; Socialist Party: 186; Presidential Majority: 22; French Communist Party: 15; Various Left: 15; Various Right: 9; Left Radical Party: 7; The Greens: 4; Democratic Movement: 3; Movement for France: 1; and others: 2.

GUINEA-BISSAU

New Prime Minister: On 9 April 2007, President Mr. Joao Bernardo "Nino" Vieira appointed Mr. Martinho Ndafa Kabi as the new Prime Minister. Mr. Kabi replaced Mr. Aristides Gomes who had resigned on 29 March 2007, after the National People's Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) had passed a no-confidence motion against his Government.

ICELAND

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 63-seat Althing (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 12 May 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Independence Party: 25; Social Democratic Alliance: 18; Left-Green Alliance: 9; Progressive Party: 7; and Liberal Party: 4.

IRELAND

Legislative Elections: The elections to 166-seat *Dail* (the lower house of the Bicameral Legislature) was held on 24 May 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Fianna Fail: 78; Fine Gael: 51; Labour Party: 20; Green Party: 6; Sinn Fein: 4; Progressive Democrats: 2; and Independents/Others: 5.

New Government: On 14 June 2007, the *Dail* by 89 votes to 76 re-elected Mr. Bertie Ahern as the Prime Minister for a third term.

ISRAEL

Election of President: On 13 June 2007, the *Knesset* (the Unicameral Legislature) elected Mr. Shimon Peres as the President of Israel.

LATVIA

President Elected: On 31 May 2007, a special session of the *Saeima* (the Unicameral Legislature) elected Mr. Valdis Zatlers as the President of Latvia, to succeed Mr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga whose term ends in July 2007.

LIBERIA

Election of Speaker: On 6 April 2007, Mr. Alex Tyler was elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Mr. Tyler replaced Mr. Edwin Snowe who had resigned in February 2007.

MALI

President Re-elected: Gen. (Retd.) Amadou Toumani Touré was re-elected as the President of Mali in the elections held for the post on 29 April 2007.

MAURITANIA

President Sworn in: On 19 April 2007, Mr. Sidi Mohammed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi was sworn in as the President of Mauritania.

New Prime Minister: On 20 April 2007, Mr. Zeine Ould Zeidane was appointed as the Prime Minister of Mauritania.

MONGOLIA

Resignation of Speaker: On 14 June 2007, the Speaker of the Great Hural (the Unicameral Legislature), Mr. Tsendiyn Nyamdorj resigned from his post.

MYANMAR

Appointment of Prime Minister: On 21 June 2007, Lt-Gen. Thein Sein was confirmed as Prime Minister. He was appointed acting Prime Minister in May, standing in for Lt-Gen. Soe Win, who had gone for medical treatment in Singapore.

NIGER

New Government: On 1 June 2007, 62 legislators in the 113-seat National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) voted in favour of a no-confidence vote, removing Prime Minister Mr. Hama Amadou's Government.

On 3 June 2007, President Mr. Mamadou Tandja appointed Mr. Seini Oumarou, as the new Prime Minister.

NIGERIA

President Elected: Mr. Umaru Yar'Adua was elected as the President of Nigeria in the elections held for the post on 21 April 2007. He was sworn in on 29 May 2007.

POLAND

Resignation of Sejm Speaker: On 13 April 2007, Mr. Marek Jurek resigned as the Speaker of the *Sejm* (the lower house of the Bicameral Legislature).

QATAR

Prime Minister Sworn in: On 3 April 2007, Shaikh Hamad Bin Khalifa al-Thani accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Shaikh Abdulla Bin Khalifa al-Thani. Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabr al-Thani was appointed as the new Prime Minister.

RUSSIA

Death of former President: On 23 April 2007, Russia's first elected President Mr. Boris Yeltsin died. He was 76.

SAMOA

New Head of State: On 15 June 2007, the 49-member *Fono* (the Unicameral Legislature) unanimously elected Mr. Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese Taisi Tupuola Tufuga Efi as the new *O le Ao O le Malo* (Head of State), succeeding Mr. Susuga Malietoa Tanumafili II, who died in May.

SENEGAL

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 150-seat National Assembly (the lower house of the Bicameral Legislature) was held on 3 June 2007.

The party position following the elections is as follows: Sopi 2007: 131; Takku Defaraat Senegal: 3; And Defar Senegal: 3; Waar Wi: 3; Rally for the People: 2; Front for Socialism and Democracy-Benno Jubel: 1; Alliance for Progress and Justice-Jef-Jel: 1; Convergence for Renewal and Citizenship: 1; Authentic Socialist Party: 1; National Patriotic Union: 1; Reform Movement for Social Development: 1; Rally of the Ecologists of Senegal: 1; and Social Democrat Party-Jant Bi: 1.

SEYCHELLES

Legislative Elections: Elections to the 34-seat National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) were held from 10-12 May 2007. Ruling

Seychelles People's Progressive Front secured 23 seats while the Opposition Seychelles National Party and the Democratic Party won 11 seats.

SYRIA

Re-election of President: In a national referendum held on 27 May 2007, in which he was the only candidate, Mr. Bashar al-Assad was endorsed as the President for a second seven-year term.

UNITED KINGDOM

New Prime Minister: On 27 June 2007, Prime Minister Mr. Tony Blair resigned. Mr. Gordon Brown was sworn in as the new Prime Minister.

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DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (the NREG Act) provided for a legal guarantee for at least hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose members volunteered to do unskilled manual work. In terms of sub-section (2) of section 1, the NREG Act was not applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir recommended that the NREG Act be extended to that State. Based on the recommendation of the State Government, the Union Government decided to extend the NREG Act to the State of Jammu and Kashmir so that the people residing in the rural areas of the State were benefitted.

An Employment Guarantee Scheme had already been in operation in three identified districts in Jammu and Kashmir on lines of the NREG Act, for which funds were being provided to the State as being given to other States under the Act. The amendment proposed in the Act aimed at providing a legal backing to the Scheme in operation, by guaranteeing at least hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to the wage seekers of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. By making an amendment in section 1(2) of the NREG Act, all the provisions of the Act shall become applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The National Rural Employment Guarantee (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Bill, 2007 which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 19 March and 27 April 2007, respectively. The President assented to it on 11 May 2007.

The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 which was amended with effect from 1 September 2000 provided for compulsory transmission of Doordarshan channels. Section 8 of the said Act was amended and by a notification dated 25 February 2005, issued by Doordarshan it was *inter alia*, stipulated, that cable operators in all the States and Union territories of India shall also re-transmit DD-Lok Sabha Channel and DD-Rajya Sabha Channel in non-prime band on their cable network.

Earlier, the Lok Sabha Secretariat had approached the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for permission to uplink the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha channels from India and this permission was granted to them in December 2005. As the "Sansad Television Network Lok Sabha Channel" and the "Sansad Television Network Rajya Sabha Channel" were independent of Doordarshan, there was no statutory provision regarding compulsory re-transmission of these channels by the cable operators. The Bill has proposed to amend section 8 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 so as to make it compulsory for every cable operator to re-transmit channels

transmitted by the Parliament of India in the manner and the name as may be specified by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette. The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2007 which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 3 and 15 May 2007, respectively. The President assented to it on 28 May 2007.

We reproduce here the texts of the above Acts.

—Editor

THE NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE (EXTENSION TO JAMMU AND KASHMIR) ACT, 2007

An Act to provide for the extension of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 *to the State of Jammu and Kashmir*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-eighth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement: (1)* This Act may be called the National Rural Employment Guarantee (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Act, 2007.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Offical Gazette, appoint; and different dates may be appointed for different areas in the Sate and any reference to the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that Act in such areas.

2. *Extension and amendment of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005: (1)* The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act) and all rules, orders and schemes made thereunder by the Central Government are hereby extended to, and shall be in force in, the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(2) With effect from the date of commencement of this Act, in the principal Act, in sub-section (*2*) of section 1, the words "except the State of Jammu and Kashmir" shall be omitted.

3. *Construction of reference to a law not in force in Jammu and Kashmir:* Any reference in any Act mentioned in the principal Act to a law which is not in force in the State of Jammu and Kashmir shall, in relation to that State, be construed as a reference to the corresponding law, if any, in force in that State.

THE CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) AMENDMENT ACT, 2007

An Act further to amend the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-eighth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title:* This Act may be called the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2007.

2. *Amendment of section 8 of Act 7 of 1995:* In the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, in section 8, for sub-sections (*1*) and (*2*), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

"(*1*) Every cable operator shall re-transmit,—

(*i*) channels operated by or on behalf of Parliament in the manner and name as may be specified by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette;

(*ii*) at least two Doordarshan terrestrial channels and one regional language channel of a State in the prime band,

in satellite mode on frequencies other than those carrying terrestrial frequencies.

(*2*) The channels referred to in sub-section (*1*) shall be re-transmitted without any deletion or alteration of any programme transmitted on such channels.".

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SESSIONAL REVIEW

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

TENTH SESSION

The Tenth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha which commenced on 23 February 2007 was adjourned *sine die* on 17 May 2007. (The House was adjourned from 20 March to 26 April 2007 to enable the Departmentally-related Standing Committees of Parliament to examine the Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments assigned to them and report back to the House.) The House was prorogued on 21 May 2007.

A résumé of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period from 26 April to 17 May 2007 is given below:*

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

Statement by the Minister of Rural Development regarding the status of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA): Making a statement in the House in this regard on 16 May 2007, the Minister of Rural Development, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh said that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 was notified on 2 February 2006 in 200 identified districts in 27 States in its first phase of implementation. He said that the Act would be applicable to the whole of the Territory to which it extended within a period of five years from the date of its enactment. It had been decided by the Government to extend the coverage under the Act to 130 additional districts in the second phase. He informed that 113 districts, out of the additional 130 districts, were notified. The names of the 17 districts of Uttar Pradesh were not declared due to the Model Code of Conduct being in place in the State in view of the elections to the State Assembly. Now that the election process in the State was over, these 17 districts had been notified on 15 May 2007.

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* For resume of the important discussions, etc., held during the period from 23 February to 20 March 2007, *see* the *Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol. LIII, No.2, June 2007, pp. 182-199

The Minister stated that the Central Government had made a budget provision of Rs.11,300 crore for the year 2006-2007. During the year, an amount of Rs.12,072.51 crore was available with 200 Phase-one districts for implementing the NREGA. This included Central Government's release of Rs.8,263.66 crore, States' share of Rs.801.91 crore and Opening Balance, as on 1 April 2006, of Rs.2,052.92 crore. Besides, an amount of Rs.377.20 crore was released to 113 Phase-two districts for preparatory arrangements and initial expenses, thus making a total Central release of Rs.8,640.86 crore to the 313 districts during 2006-2007 under the NREGA. The Central Government had made a budget provision of Rs.12,000 crore for the current financial year, 2007-2008, for implementation of the Act against which an amount of Rs.1,247.66 crore had been released.

The Minister said that 2.10 crore households were provided employment during the period 2006-2007. In the NREGA, against a total fund availability of Rs.12,072.51 crore with the States during 2006-2007, Rs.8,812.60 crore had been utilised under the Programme. The average fund utilization per district was Rs.44.06 crore in 2006-2007, while under the *Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana* (SGRY) for 2005-2006, the average fund utilization for a district was Rs.12 crore. A total of 8.31 lakh works had been undertaken under the Programme, out of which 3.83 lakh had been completed. A total of 2.66 lakh water conservation works, such as digging of new ponds, percolation tank, check dams had been undertaken. He also informed that the following works had been undertaking: 59,924 works of renovation of traditional water bodies; 80,794 works to provide irrigation facilities on the land owned by Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and beneficiaries of the land reforms; 27,682 micro irrigation works, such as minor irrigation canals and 88,557 land development works; and 77,305 afforestation works. Road works taken up in the Programme were 1.9 lakh which had so far added 22.89 lakh kilometres of road length. Over all, out of the total number of works undertaken, 74 per cent were water conservation works and 22 per cent were road works, he added.

The Minister informed that the National Level Monitors (NLM) had visited all the 200 Phase-one districts. Feedbacks received from the NLMs had been shared with the State Governments. Social Auditing process had been started in the States and NGOs had been involved in generating awareness at the field level.

Discussion under rule 193 regarding Global Warming: A discussion took place in this regard in the House on 8, 16 and 17 May 2007. Initiating the discussion on 8 May 2007, Shri C.K. Chandrappan of the

Communist Party of India said that global warming was an issue about which the entire world was concerned today and India naturally had its own share of concern. A UN Report stated that the glaciers all over the world, especially the Himalayan ones were likely to melt and would thus cause devastating floods. With the devastating floods, most of the coastal regions of the country, including the great cities of Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata would be coming to an end. The same would be the case with North America, Africa and all the Continents.

Shri Chandrappan said that Global warming was due to increase in the average temperature of earth and oceans in recent times resulting in a continued increase in temperature due to increasing emission of gases like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and sulphur hexafluoride, etc. This phenomenon was increasing due to the high rate of industrialization, use of lot of petroleum, etc. The world had to take more serious view of this problem. In this regard, he said that the Government of India had taken certain steps such as improving energy efficiency and conservation, promotion of clean coal technologies, hydro and renewable energy, encouraging mass rapid systems, environmental quality management, etc. He opined that it was also the time to fix responsibility and insist on the developed countries like the US to spend money to bring down their own greenhouse gases to save the globe and mankind as a whole from the crisis. He also suggested that India should once again become the leader of the Non-Aligned World and that all the developing countries, especially, Brazil, South Africa and Mexico alongwith China should be brought together to strengthen the case. He felt that it would be good enough if a Group of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister with a team of the best scientific brains were asked to look into the matter. The Government of India should act speedily and effectively, with a sense of determination and political direction, he concluded.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar (JD-S) said that in the tropical belts like Kerala and elsewhere, stabilization of climate was done by forests. There should be tree cover on the land to prevent erosion. Global warming, which was caused by human beings, was a threat to the entire world. The threat of deglaciation of 38 per cent of the small glaciers in the Himalayas over a 40 year period from 1962, as concluded in a study by ISRO's Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad,

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Sandeep Dikshit, Ravi Prakash Verma, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Kharabela Swain, K.S. Rao, Ram Kripal Yadav, Manvendra Singh, Sippiparai Ravichandaran, Francis K. George, Tek Lal Mahto, Dr. Sujan Chakraborty, Dr. K. Dhanaraju, Prof. K.M. Kadermohideen, Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan and Smt. Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha

was a major concern for India. According to the new predictions from Britain's leading climate scientists, he said that a large-scale drought, which threatened the lives of millions would spread across half the land surface of the earth in the coming century because of the global warming. In such an alarming situation, he suggested that a holistic approach was required in industrial and environmental policies.

Intervening in the discussion on 16 May 2007, the Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences, Shri Kapil Sibal said that it was very difficult to discuss about global warming in these circumstances. Everyone knew that when the level of carbon dioxide increased, the whole atmosphere got polluted. He suggested that sincere efforts should be made to reduce the level of these contaminants.

Replying to the discussion on 17 May 2007, the Minister of Environment and Forests, Shri A. Raja said that Climate change should be looked after by all the countries in the universe, globally. India was being guided by two very important instruments–the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. In 1994, under the UNFCC, all the countries were asked to quantify their emissions. India's approach to planning was towards accelerated economic growth coupled with the principle of sustainable development. India was proud to tell the international community that it had only 4 per cent of the global emissions while having 17 per cent of the population of the world. He said that a single country in this globe could not protect the climate change. Regarding Kyoto Protocol, he said that there was a war between the developed countries and the developing countries. Developed countries were emitting more whereby climate was changing. But the tragedy was that due to climate change, the developing countries were going to be affected.

According to the Kyoto Protocol provisions, the Minister said that India was very safe, and its emissions were within limit. But India could not give any commitment for further reduction. At the same time, some people including members were thinking that India was polluting more because Kyoto Protocol was not binding on India. The Minister clarified that this was totally wrong, and must be removed from the minds. India was having very hectic, speedy and effective steps to reduce its emissions. In order to reduce emissions and reduce pollution, the Minister said that India was switching over to hydro thermal power. Under the UNFCC, the United States was a signatory, whereby they quantified their own emission levels and disclosed as to how much was their emission level in comparison to other nations. For the first time,

developed countries including the U.K., the U.S.A. wanted to discuss non-trading issues including environment in the WTO. In Kyoto Protocol, all developing countries were behind India and India was negotiating on behalf of the developing countries.

Discussion under Rule 193 regarding price rise: A discussion took place in this regard in the House on 15 and 17 May 2007. Initiating the discussion on 15 May 2007, Shri Prabodh Panda of the Communist Party of India said that the half-hearted measures taken by the Finance Ministry failed to make any impact so far as curbing the prices of essential commodities was concerned. The prices of essential commodities were going up day by day. The Finance Minister always referred to the Wholesale Price Index but he said nothing about the Consumer Price Index. The common people who bought their necessities from the market did not buy their commodities based on the rate of Wholesale Price Index. The retail price had not yet been taken into account. The Public Distribution System all over the country was getting weakened day by day. No emphasis had been given on de-hoarding and the blackmarketeers and middlemen were creating artificial crisis in the market. The Government was now propounding the idea that inflation was a manifestation of the demand and supply gap. If the supply of goods and services did not increase, the gap could not be matched. The Government had failed to strengthen the supply side. Therefore, they were attempting to check the demand side by taking some financial measures. They were tightening the credit system, the credit policies and the credits. He urged the Government to stress on the supply side and take measures to supply more goods to the market. He wanted that the Government should think over investing more for more production so that more goods would come to the market and the supply side would be strengthened. If the UPA Government was facing some danger, the main reason for that would be inflation. It had failed to arrest it or to check it, he added.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete (Shiv Sena) said that the Prime Minister had accepted the fact that the prices were rising but, in spite of that, the Government had not taken any step to contain the price rise. He wanted that the Government should fix the rates of wheat, rice, pulses, edible oil and sugar for a fixed period, say for 2, 5 or 10 years so that the poor could be assured that at least for those years, he would get these items at fixed rates. He urged the

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Ananth Kumar, S.K. Kharventhan, Samik Lahiri and Ravi Prakash Verma

Government to announce such a scheme, by which it would be able to control the prices and provide relief to the people.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram stated the causes behind the present rate of inflation and said that the commodity prices had increased all over the world. It included crude oil, metal, US wheat, palm oil, copper, iron ore, lead, nickel, tin, etc. All these clearly impacted the Indian industry, manufacturing and all the downstream activities. The second reason was the supply-demand mismatch. This was because the area under foodgrains had stagnated between 120 and 125 million hectares for the last ten years. The third reason was that the public expenditure was on the rise which had pushed the demand upwardly.

The Minister further stated that after the UPA Government took over in May 2004, it succeeded in moderating inflation. No doubt, public expenditure was high especially in the flagship programmes in respect of education and health. But to deal with the situation, the Government had undertaken a number of measures. Excise duty on petrol, diesel and on a large number of food products had been reduced and the Government was willing to take more fiscal steps if the members had any suggestions. The RBI also had taken a number of monetary measures which would work as medium and long-term strategies. But, the immediate problem was how to augment the supply side. It was supply alone, which would moderate the prices of essential food articles. Therefore, for the short-term, the Minister said that the Government was taking all possible measures to augment the supply. Supplies had been augmented for wheat, paddy, rice, sugar, milk, palm oil and edible oils and he expressed his confidence that prices of essential articles would also moderate as these measures start taking effect.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2006:* On 3 May 2007, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi moved the motion for consideration of the Bill in the House.

The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 was amended with effect from 1 September 2000 to provide for compulsory transmission of Doordarshan channels. Section 8 of the said Act was amended and by a notification dated 25 February 2005 issued by Doordarshan, it was stipulated, *inter alia,* that cable operators in all the States and Union

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19 December 2006

territories of India should also re-transmit DD-Lok Sabha Channel and DD-Rajya Sabha Channel in non-prime band on their cable network.

Earlier, the Lok Sabha Secretariat had approached the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for permission to uplink the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Channels from India and this permission was granted to them in December 2005. As the "Sansad Television Network Lok Sabha Channel" and the "Sansad Television Network Rajya Sabha Channel" were independent of Doordarshan, there was no statutory provision regarding compulsory re-transmission of these channels by the cable operators. Now, it was proposed to amend section 8 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 so as to make it compulsory for every cable operator to re-transmit the channels transmitted by Parliament of India in the manner and the name as may be specified by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri P.C. Thomas (Kerala Congress) supported the Bill and also suggested that the proceedings of the Parliamentary Committees which are been held in-camera at present should also be projected in some manner through Television network.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi congratulated the Speaker, Lok Sabha, on behalf of his Ministry for his wisdom in having an independent channel of Lok Sabha free from the domain of Prasar Bharati. He assured him that whenever the channel needed any archival materials from Prasar Bharati, Films Division, etc., the Ministry would support it, totally and fully.

The Minister said that the limited object of the Bill was to give direction to the cable operators to carry the Lok Sabha Channel since under the existing law, they were not bound in any manner whatsoever. At present, the Lok Sabha TV Channel had been named as *Sansad Channel*. In future, if the other House thinks of a different channel, which should be free from the domain of the Prasar Bharati, the same Act could give directions without bringing any further amendment for that purpose. The scope of the amendment would not be limited to the cable operators for the present, but there would be no bar on having a new channel or renaming the existing channel in future also. In view of this, Government made the amendment a little flexible.

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri K.S. Rao, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Tathagata Satpathy, Tapir Gao, Francis K. George, Santosh Gangwar, M. Shivanna, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Kiren Rijiju and Smt. Sumitra Mahajan

In 1995, the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act was passed. In those days, the number of channels was very limited. Now, the Government was monitoring and taking care of almost 340 channels, including the Doordarshan channels. Taking this into consideration, the UPA Government took a right decision to come out with a comprehensive legislation on the regulation of the content. The Ministry had issued 75 to 80 Show Cause Notices to the broadcasters during the tenure of the UPA Government and in most of the cases, the matter was disposed of across the table. The Minister said that though the Government had no intention of controlling the media or the TV, it did believe that certain kind of arrangements and code, be it in advertisement, or in content, had to be adhered to in every democratic country. India's liberalization, he said, did not mean that it was a free and empty ground to destroy the country's heritage, its law, culture or tradition.

To get rid of the cable operation, he said that it was necessary to expand the Conditional Access System (CAS) everywhere. The UPA Government was absolutely successful in implementing the CAS in Chennai, Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai free from all hindrances and within the limited time given by the Court. The next course was to spread it to other cities. The Minister, however, was concerned for the cable operators that they should not lose their jobs since lot of workers were there. The Government, he said, was trying to discipline them and he also appealed to them not to pirate the cassettes since this was resulting in disastrous effect.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

*The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005**: On 4 May 2007, the Minister of Power, Shri Sushilkumar Shinde moved the motion for consideration of the Bill in the House.

The law relating to generation, transmission, distribution, trading and use of electricity was contained in the Electricity Act, 2003. The Act had been reviewed by the Government as per the commitment made by it in the National Common Minimum Programme and in view of the concern expressed by a number of States. It was proposed to amend the Act to give effect to certain changes as had been considered necessary.

Section 6 of the Act provided that the appropriate Government shall endeavour to supply electricity to all the areas including the villages and the hamlets. There had been a concern that the onus of rural electrification

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23 December 2005

had been put only on the State Governments. It was proposed to amend section 6 so as to provide that the concerned State Governments and the Central Government should jointly endeavour to provide access to electricity to all the areas including the villages and the hamlets through rural electricity infrastructure and electrification of the households.

Sections 38-40, 42, 61, 178 and 181 of the Act, *inter alia*, provided for reduction and 'elimination' of cross subsidies. There had been a concern that though the cross subsidies might be reduced, elimination of such subsidies might not be feasible for the present. It was, therefore, proposed to amend the said sections so as to do away with the 'elimination' of cross-subsidies. However, reduction of cross subsidies would continue.

As per the provisions contained in section 151 of the Act, the offences relating to theft of electricity, electric lines and interference with the meters were cognizable offences. Concerns had been expressed that the present formulation of section 151 stood as a barrier to investigation of these cognizable offences by the police. It was proposed to amend section 151 so as to clarify the position that the police would be able to investigate the cognizable offences under the Act. To expedite the trial before the special courts, it was also proposed to provide that a special court should be competent to take cognizance of an offence without the accused being committed to it for the trial.

Participating in the discussion on 7 May 2007*, Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) said that a lot of money was being provided by the Government of India to the States for the rural electrification and also for the household electrification. Power theft had now been reduced to 33 per cent. However, this was not comparable with the world standards. In some countries the losses owing to distribution, transmission and theft were 7 to 10 per cent. If the Government could achieve that target, then only it would be able to provide cheap power to the consumers, he added.

Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) said that the conservation of electricity was as good as producing electricity. So, he suggested that the Government should evolve modern methods of conserving electricity.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Power, Shri Sushilkumar

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Kiren Rijiju, K.S. Rao, P. Karunakaran, Ramji Lal Suman, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Brahmananda Panda, Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, Vijayendra Pal Singh, S.K. Kharventhan, Anil Basu, Shailendra Kumar, Kharabela Swain, J.M. Aaron Rashid, M. Shivanna, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Alok Kumar Mehta, Mani Charenamel, Ganesh Singh, Ch. Lal Singh and Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat

Shinde said that rapid strides were being made under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme and that power would be made available to all by the year 2009. At present, there were 1.25 lakh villages in the country. Out of these, 25,000 villages were proposed to be electrified by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and 39,000 villages had already been electrified. Though 60 years had elapsed since independence, yet rural areas were not electrified. BPL families in villages were required to be provided with free electricity connection. The Minister recommended that environment friendly, affordable and cheap power should be made available. For that, ultra-mega projects were proposed to be constructed. Restructuring in Maharashtra, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh had yielded good results. After restructuring, subsidy amount had come down by Rs.12,000 crore. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme, unprecedented work of franchise had been done in Uttarakhand. With Open Access System, power theft would come down because in the rural areas it was well known who was indulging in power theft. Similarly, in urban areas, power theft could be easily detected. Provision had been made regarding power theft and this would improve the power business in the country. Loopholes in law had been plugged.

The Minister said that hydro-power projects were constructed in difficult terrain. Enough work could have been accomplished during the last 60 years but only 20 per cent of the work had been undertaken. At present, there was shortage of 14,000 M.W. and to meet the shortage, India must generate 21,000 M.W. power daily and would need 78,000 additional capacity to become self sufficient.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

*The Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2005**: Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill in the House on 15 May 2007, the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Sharad Pawar said the Bill was a farmer-friendly legislation. The main objective of the Bill was to ensure higher returns to the farmers by encouraging scientific warehousing of goods, lowering the cost of financing, ensuring a shorter supply chain, enhancing rewards for grading and quality and providing for better price risk management. The introduction of a negotiable warehouse receipt would increase liquidity in rural areas and would give a safety net to farmers against distress sale. So far, the use of warehouse receipt had remained confined as a collateral security, for grant of loans by the

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 7 December 2005

commercial banks against the goods stored in the warehouses. The warehouse receipt had not yet gained its acceptability so as to make it freely transferable from one person to another as there was no legal back up at present. The warehouse receipt could not be brought under the purview of the Negotiable Instrument Act, 1881. In view of the advice of the Department of Legal Affairs, it was decided to have a separate Central legislation for making the warehouse receipt fully negotiable so as to give full enforceability and transparency for the warehouse receipts. The Standing Committee had gone through the Bill in great details and made a number of suggestions. The Government had been greatly benefited by these recommendations and had accepted most of the suggestions of the Committee. The Government felt that the passing of this legislation would bring about a marked improvement in the lives of farmers and the warehousing scenario of the country.

Replying to the discussion*, the Minister said that the thought behind the legislation was to create a situation where the farmer would not act in such a fashion where he had to go for distress sale. As per the provisions of the Bill, the farmer would produce his crop and he would take it to a particular warehouse which had been accredited. He would get a receipt and that receipt would be treated like a cheque of any bank where he would get money whenever he wants to sell it. The moment the Bill comes into effect, he said that the warehouse movement would grow in the country. Today, there were a limited number of warehouses owned by the State Warehousing Corporation or the Central Warehousing Corporation. There might also be some private warehouses. After this legislation is enacted, a number of other organizations, including private parties, would come forward and construct warehouses with different types of facilities. Regarding certain issues about accreditation of banks, he said that the warehouses who had proposed to give the receipts should be accredited by the banks and they should accept the receipts and advance the money. As regards the issue whether the Government had consulted the State Government or not, he said that the State Governments had been consulted on this issue. This legislation would not interfere in the working of the State Warehousing Act. The Minister said that there was a provision to enable the farming community to get adequate price for their produce and also to ensure that they get at least the price for their cultivation.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

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* Those who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Bikram Keshari Deo, Brahmananda Panda, Prabodh Panda, Lakshman Singh and Smt. P. Satheedevi

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the Tenth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, 40 sittings were fixed for Question Hour. In all, 31,184 Notices of Questions were received. Out of these, 22,622 were Starred; 8,555 Unstarred and 7 Short Notice Questions. Out of these, 621 Notices were in the Starred List of Questions, 5,928 (excluding three Unstarred Questions deleted) were included in the Unstarred List of Questions and none was included in the Short Notice Question List.

On the first day of the Session, *i.e.* 23 February 2007, the President addressed both the Houses of Parliament assembled together. As usual, there was no Question Hour on that day.

Due to interruptions in the House on 26 and 27 February; 1, 2, 15, 16, 19 and 20 March; 26 April; 7, 8, 10 and 14 May 2007; and as the House adjourned for the day after obituary references on 6 March 2007, Starred Questions were not called for oral answers. As demanded by the Members of Parliament, on 11 May 2007, the House adjourned in the memory of the martyrs of the 1857 War of Independence without transacting any business to meet on 14 May 2007. Replies to the Starred Questions, listed for those days were treated as Unstarred and their answers, together with the answer to Unstarred Questions, were printed in the official report for those days.

As per the decision taken in the Leaders' Meeting held on 2 March 2007, the sitting of the Lok Sabha fixed for 5 March 2007 was cancelled due to Holi. Similarly, the sitting fixed for 21 March 2007 was also cancelled. The replies to Starred Questions Listed for those days were treated as Unstarred and their answers together with the answers to the Unstarred Questions, were printed in the official Report for the next sitting, *i.e.* 6 March and 26 April 2007, respectively.

In order to complete the urgent items of the Financial Business, a sitting of Lok Sabha was fixed on 28 April 2007. However, there was no Question Hour on that day.

On 20 March 2007, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, made the following announcement in the House:

> "Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House that a suggestion has come from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that in view of ensuing elections in Uttar Pradesh, several requests have been received from Leaders of Parties, for rescheduling of the second part of the Budget Session. The matter was also discussed in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee held on 13 March 2007, wherein it was agreed that the second part of the Budget Session be rescheduled and may commence

from Thursday, the 26 April 2007 instead of Wednesday, the 18 April 2007 as fixed earlier and may conclude on 22 May 2007. I hope the House agrees."

Accordingly, the sittings of Lok Sabha fixed for 18, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 25 April 2007 were cancelled. As no Question list was printed and circulated, Notices of Questions given for the above dates were, therefore, treated as lapsed. With the consent of all the Party Leaders, the Speaker adjourned the House *sine die* on 17 May 2007 instead of 22 May 2007, as scheduled earlier. Thus, Questions listed for 18, 21, 22 May, 2007 were treated as lapsed.

Daily Average of Questions in the List of Questions: The average number of Starred Questions answered orally in the House during the Session were 2.02. The maximum number of Starred Questions answered orally on a day was 8 on 27 April 2007.

The average number of questions appearing in the Unstarred List came to 160 per day against the prescribed limit of 230, the minimum being 106 questions on 7 May 2007.

Half-an-Hour Discussions: In all, 12 notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received during the Session. Out of these, only 4 notices were admitted but none of them was discussed on the floor of the House.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the period, obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri Manabendra Shah, Sunil Kumar Mahato, both sitting members; Sarvashri Shyamacharan Shukla, S.N. Singh, Ghamandi Lal Bansal, Ram Raghunath Chaudhary and Smt. Bonily Khongmen, all former members; and Mr. Boris Nikolaevich Yeltsin, former President of the Russian Federation.

Besides, references were also made to the loss of lives in two bomb blasts that rocked the Pakistan bound Attari-Samjhauta Express near Panipat, Haryana on 18 February 2007; the boat tragedy in Kerala in which fifteen students and three teachers of a primary school lost their lives when their boat capsized in the Bhoothathankettu reservoir off the Tahattekkad Bird Sanctuary near Kothamangalam on 20 February 2007; the terrorist attacks in Algiers on 11 April 2007, which resulted in the death of more than thirty civilians and injuries to more than hundred and sixty persons; the terrorist incidents in Casablanca in April 2007; tragic road accident in Anand district of Gujarat resulting in the death of several people; and to the 150th Anniversary of India's "First War of Independence".

Thereafter, members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased and the martyrs.

RAJYA SABHA

TWO HUNDRED AND TENTH SESSION*

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its Two Hundred and Tenth Session on 23 February 2007, was adjourned on 21 March 2007 to enable the Department-related Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments assigned to them and report back to the House. The House reconvened on 26 April 2007 and was adjourned *sine die* on 17 May 2007. The Rajya Sabha was then prorogued by the President on 21 May 2007.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the Session is given below:

A. STATEMENTS/DISCUSSIONS

Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to Members of Parliament: On 23 February 2007, the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressed the members of both Houses of Parliament together in the Central Hall of Parliament. The Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address was moved by Dr. Karan Singh of the Indian National Congress on 1 March 2007. The Motion was seconded by Shri Raashid Alvi of the Indian National Congress. The discussion took place on 1, 6, 7 and 8 March 2007.

Moving the Motion, Dr. Karan Singh said that the UPA Government, its Chairperson, the Prime Minister and his colleagues deserved full credit for the sustenance of an eight per cent growth per annum over the last three years; the rise of millions above the poverty line; impressive industrial growth and the burgeoning foreign reserves. Speaking about the rise in prices, he said that it caused acute distress particularly to the poorest and the most vulnerable sections of the society. He also stressed upon the need for a second Green Revolution.

Referring to five schemes of the Government, namely the *Bharat Nirman,* the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the National Rural Health Mission, the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, he said that if those five programmes were effectively implemented over the next five year plan period, a

* Contributed by the Research and Library Section, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

demonstrable impact could be made upon poverty in the country. For this, he said that it was important that the State Governments fully cooperated with the Government of India and involved the broad sections of the society. Commending the Motion to the House, he appealed to all the members to rededicate themselves to build an India which was politically stable, economically prosperous, socially harmonious, intellectually alert and spiritually mature.

Seconding the Motion, Shri Raashid Alvi (INC) said that the country's performance in various sectors like industrial production, electricity generation, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), export and foreign currency reserves deserved appreciation. It was unjustifiable to blame only the Government for the price rise. He requested the Government that if the taxes like customs duty, excise duty and sales tax on petrol were fixed, it could bring down the petrol price. He congratulated the Finance Minister for the announcement made in the current Budget regarding two per cent reduction in its price. He also urged the Government to pay more attention towards judicial as well as police reforms. He commended the Government for making sufficient provision for the education and agricultural sectors.

Referring to the Sachar Committee's Report, Shri Alvi said that in order to improve the condition of the Muslim community, the Government had made a provision to the tune of Rupees one hundred and eight crore for the development of the districts having more than seventy per cent Muslim population.

Participating in the discussion,* Shri Jaswant Singh (BJP) said that although the President's Address referred to the Right to Information Act, the information regarding Quattrochi was withheld from the country as well as the Parliament. He said that the Government had acted too late on the issue of price rise and that too in a manner that had caused great distress to the country. He was astonished that the Prime Minister handed over the responsibility of the management of the economy

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Pyarelal Khandelwal, Kalraj Mishra, Shreegopal Vyas, Janeshwar Mishra, P.G. Narayanan, R.K. Dhawan, Gandhi Azad, Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy, Arjun Kumar Sengupta, B.K. Hariprasad, Prasanta Chatterjee, Abdul Wahab Peevee, T.S. Bajwa, Bashishtha Narain Singh, Rajeev Shukla, Uday Pratap Singh, Sharad Anantrao Joshi, Tarlochan Singh, N. Jothi, Rajniti Prasad, Pyarimohan Mohapatra, Syed Azeez Pasha, R. Shunmugasundaram, Chowdhary Mohammad Aslam, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Dr. M.S. Gill, Dr. Barun Mukherjee, Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Smt. Supriya Sule, Smt. Shobhana Bhartia and Ms. Mabel Rebello

to the States and advised that the inflation be fought by the State Governments. He alleged that the CBI was being misused by the ruling party. He further stated that if the defence procurement systems were affected, it would collapse the entire decision-making process of the Ministry of Defence. Referring to the nuclear issue, Shri Singh said that it required to be debated and discussed in its totality in order to plan for the country's Defence for the next twenty years. He also said that a foreign policy on Pakistan was not feasible as that country had terrorism as a plank of its State policy.

Shri Sitaram Yechury (CPI-M) referred to the outbreak of the communal violence in various parts of the country particularly in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. He said that the very formation of the UPA Government was based on the fact that the country needed to be protected from communal assaults and there was a need to actually preserve and strengthen India's secular and democratic foundation. The main content of the President's Address, he said, dealt with the economic situation in the country. He drew the attention of the Prime Minister towards the fact that he had supported the liberalization process and the reforms process with a human face. He further said that suicides by the farmers were still continuing. Although it had been promised in the Common Minimum Programme that health, education and the basic question of food security would be addressed, however, in the Budget, there was no extra allocation for agriculture at all. He pointed out that the total expenditure on the social sector had declined from 28.26 per cent in 2001-2002 to 27.19 per cent in the Budget Estimates of 2006-2007.

Shri Yechury expressed his concern about the status of employment in the country and urged the Government to focus its attention on the fifty-four per cent of the country's population which was below twenty-five years of age and was the future of the country. Regarding the proportion of land to be used for production in the Special Economic Zones, Shri Yechury suggested that fifty per cent of the land could be used for production, twenty-five per cent for provision of infrastructures like schools, colleges, hospitals, etc. and the remaining twenty-five per cent should be allowed to be developed as residential and commercial places. He stated that there were four essential areas where attention was required to be paid, *viz.* economic development, employment and income generation, education and security. He also complimented the Government for the positive initiatives taken on the foreign policy front.

Taking part in the discussion, Dr. P.C. Alexander (Independent)

said that the problem of the country's internal security had become much more acute than ever before because of the fact that India is surrounded by five failed polities. These countries, he stated, failed not merely because of failure of law and order, but for a variety of reasons which were very conspicuous in the country, *viz.* the failure of the institutions of democracy, electoral system, lack of real leadership, etc. He said that if these reasons, which also existed in India, were ignored and nothing was done to tackle the problem, the country would also be included in the list of twenty-five top failed States of Asia. Referring to the judicial reforms, Dr. Alexander said that the National Judicial Council Bill recently introduced had taken away the right of impeachment from the House. He urged that judicial reforms should be handled boldly.

Replying to the debate on 8 March 2007, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said that the foremost task before the Government was to get rid of chronic poverty, ignorance and diseases which still afflicted large segments of the population. Recognizing the fact that in the previous years, the performance of the agricultural economy had not been up to the mark, he said that since 1996, the growth rate of the agricultural economy had been declining sharply. He informed the House that an expert group under Dr. Radhakrishnan had been appointed to look into the matter on a priority basis and assured that agricultural research and extension management would receive greater attention. He accepted that effective strategies were required to protect the people against inflation which hurt the poor people more than any other segment of the population. He said that the Government was serious in bringing inflation under control. He further stated that the measures announced by the Finance Minister to reduce custom duties on essential commodities and the arrangements made to augment domestic supplies through imports would have the desired stabilizing effect. He called upon all the political parties to treat water as a national resource and work together in a spirit of national unity and harmony to resolve the issue of rational use of water resources.

Regarding internal security, the Prime Minister said that the Centre was working in tandem with the State Governments to tackle the threats to national security, be they from terrorist elements or from the naxalite elements. Mentioning about the social sectors, he further stated that the Government was committed and would work to raise the allocation for education to 6 per cent and for health to 2 to 3 per cent of the country's GDP. Expressing his concern about population stabilization, Dr. Singh said that a holistic approach to health care through the National

Rural Health Mission would make a material contribution without involving any coercion in the process of implementation. As regards the Special Economic Zone policy, he said that a Group of Ministers headed by Shri Pranab Mukherjee was looking into the matter and the anomalies in the scheme would be taken care of.

Reiterating the Government's stand towards communalism, Dr. Singh stated that the Government would never allow anyone to weaken the country's democratic traditions. The new 15-point programme was focused on ensuring an equitable sharing of the benefits of crucial development programmes in health and education.

Referring to the foreign relations, the Prime Minister said that in the past two years, India's relations with Russia, the United States, the European Union, China, Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) had grown. Furthering his point, he said that as the incoming Chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the scope of the country's relations with all the nations of the SAARC region would be expanded. He hoped that the country's relations with Pakistan, including all the outstanding issues would be resolved through dialogue. Concluding, he stated that the Government was committed to work towards the reservation of seats for women in the State Legislatures and Parliament.

The Budget (Railways) 2007-2008: The discussion on the Budget (Railways) 2007-2008 took place on 12, 13 and 14 March 2007. Initiating the discussion on 12 March 2007, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu (BJP) said that the critical aspects of infrastructure, security, safety, amenities and the need for expansion of the Railway network in the country had been ignored in the Railway Budget 2007-2008. Dismissing the claim that the Budget was realistic, he said that it was definitely a populist Budget. The regional imbalances in different parts of the country, he said, should be taken care of. Moreover, negating the claim made by the Minister about the thirty-two new trains, he said that in fact only ten new trains had been introduced. He said that the number of employees in Railways had been reduced while more than twelve thousand posts were lying vacant, which was against the interests of the common man. Referring to the Samjhauta Express incident and Mumbai serial blasts, Shri Naidu enquired as to what steps were being taken on the safety front. He also informed that around 10,000 kms of railway track needed replacement. He suggested that the idle assets of the railways in various parts of the country be assessed and disposed of after their identification. He urged the Minister to take care of the people's aspirations and also the problems faced by them from time to time.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Praveen Rashtrapal (INC) complimented the Railway Minister for his performance and said that the Railways were helping the entire industry in the country. He commended the Minister for having a coach factory each at Madhepur in Bihar and Raebareli in Uttar Pradesh and requested that coach manufacturing factory or Railway Workshop be opened in Gujarat. Stating the fact that Gujarat had the highest rail track of Meter Gauge and was giving the maximum revenue to the Railways, he urged that the remaining Meter Gauge rail tracks in Gujarat be converted into Broad Gauge. In order to improve the industrial background of Saurashtra, he suggested for opening a rail circuit in between the minor ports located there. He also urged that the assurance given regarding fulfilling the quota of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes while granting the newspaper and eatable stalls be implemented at the earliest. He said that the Railways should employ experts, engineers and chartered accountants along with their Government officers to prepare an inventory of its assets and properties, as it was one of the largest employers of the world.

Replying to the debate on 14 March 2007, the Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad referred to the Rakesh Mohan Committee constituted to look into the matters like bankruptcy in Railways, railway accidents, etc. The expert group, he stated, had mentioned in its report that the Indian Railways were standing on the verge of financial crisis and if this rate was maintained, the Railways would soon become impecunious. But the Railways had been brought out of such crisis. Fares, he said, had been reduced instead of being increased. He assured that there would be no retrenchment in Railways and no posts would be abolished. The backlog of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes was being filled. Moreover, the

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Mahendra Mohan, Penumalli Madhu, Motiur Rahman, Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi, Karnendu Bhattacharjee, Ram Narayan Sahu, Tarini Kanta Roy, Kalraj Mishra, Silvius Condpan, Matilal Sarkar, Pyarelal Khandelwal, Tariq Anwar, K. Chandran Pillai, Abu Asim Azmi, Abani Roy, Manohar Joshi, Surendra Lath, S.P.M. Syed Khan, Urkhao Gwra Brahma, Varinder Singh Bajwa, Datta Meghe, K.E. Ismail, Vijay J. Darda, Abdul Wahab Peevee, Tarlochan Singh, Bashishtha Narain Singh, Syed Azeez Pasha, Ajay Maroo, R. Shunmugasundaram, K.B. Shanappa, Nandi Yellaiah, B.S. Gnanadesikan, Rajniti Prasad, Rudra Narayan Pany, Moinul Hassan, Janardhana Poojary, Suresh Bhardwaj, Jayantilal Barot, Gireesh Kumar Sanghi, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Prof. P.J. Kurien, Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania, Smt. S.G. Indira, Smt. N.P. Durga, Smt. Viplove Thakur, Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Prof. (Smt.) Alka Bairam Kshatriya

process of re-instating eight thousand persons in the Railway Protection Force was also going on.

The Minister further stated that the Indian Railways had disproved the myth that a loss-making Government undertaking could be made profitable only by resorting to retrenchment of its employees and cutting down a number of posts. He said that passenger amenities, cleanliness, safety and security were the issues that had been kept on priority. He informed that a train between Kolkata and Dhaka in Bangladesh would start from April 2007. The rail links between India and Pakistan had also been reintroduced. He stated that the Indian railways being the core sector, it would not be handed over to the private sector. He enumerated the number of works that were being carried out such as electrification, improvement of signal system, construction of new rail lines and repair of bridges.

Replying to the points raised by some members regarding the allocation of funds for projects in various States, he said that it had been enhanced. He assured that all the suggestions given by the members would be implemented within a specified time.

The Budget (General) 2007-2008: The discussion on the Budget (General) 2007-2008 took place in the House on 14 and 19 March 2007. Initiating the discussion on 14 March 2007, Shri Yashwant Sinha (BJP) pointed out the weaknesses of the economy—the low agricultural growth and its declining contribution to the GDP, high inflation, especially of the essential commodities, rising interest rates, a growing current account deficit, an infrastructure deficit and the slow pace of economic reforms. He said that the central issue in the economy was inflation. He was of the view that the present high inflation rate was largely accounted for by the rise in the prices of essential commodities which hurt the common man. Referring to the claim of the Government that the electricity generation had accorded a growth rate and the Tenth Plan Target for the power sector had been achieved, Shri Sinha enquired as to how many projects in the power sector had actually gone into production of electricity.

He also questioned as to why the household savings was stagnating around twenty two per cent of the GDP. He suggested that the Government should think on the improvement of useful schemes such as the *Annapoorna* and the *Antyodaya*, besides increasing the minimum support price (MSP). Speaking about the Kisan Credit Card, he said that the scheme had made rapid progress with cumulatively more than 645 lakh cards issued up to October 2006. In the agricultural sector, he said, the central

issue was water and urged the Government to start a *Sampurna Sinchai Yojana* and ensure that the project was implemented properly and timely. Putting forth his demand for providing farm credit to the farmers, he said that the loan should be provided at four per cent interest rate. Regarding the amount of fund allocated for *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* he said that the amount of Rs.10,671 crore was barely enough taking into consideration the present rate of inflation. He urged the Government to bring the Pension Bill and remain committed to the economic reforms.

Replying to the discussion on 19 March 2007, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram said that the Budget might not have satisfied everyone but there were surely aspects of the Budget that had been universally acclaimed. He informed that there had been large inflows of foreign exchange and the high growth of the economy was fuelling the demand whereas supply of many items had not been able to keep pace with the demand. The only long-term solution to check the inflation was to increase the production and productivity. As inflation was a monetary phenomenon, the RBI had direct responsibility for maintaining the price stability and it had already taken a number of steps to moderate money supply. He stated that the difference between 2000-2001 and 2006-2007 was that in the year 2000-2001 inflation was high while the growth was modest and the GDP grew by only 4.4 per cent. In 2006-2007, the GDP was growing at over 9 per cent. He assured the members that the Government would take fiscal, monetary and supply side measures to moderate the inflation.

Statement regarding preventive detention of Ottavio Quattrochi in Argentina: Making a Statement in the House on 27 February 2007, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Suresh Pachauri stated that the CBI had received a communication on 16 February 2007 through diplomatic channels, indicating *inter alia,* that even though India and Argentina did not have an Extradition Treaty, India could still make a request for extradition of Ottavio Quattrochi under the Argentinian law; that the matter was presently pending in the court of Misiones province; that the court had appointed Dr. Carlos Guilleremo Daneri, Public Prosecutor, on behalf of Government of India and that India would have to give an offer of reciprocity for seeking extradition of Ottavio Quattrochi. After the preparation of extradition request, CBI held a meeting with the officers of Legal and Treaty Division of the Ministry of External Affairs on 22 February 2007 and got the draft extradition request vetted.

The Minister further stated that the CBI had been diligently preparing for making an extradition request in accordance with the provisions of Argentinian law and within the stipulated time period of thirty days. According to the Argentinian law, the extradition request and accompanying documents had to be in Spanish language. He said that the Government had been informed on 26 February 2007 that Ottavio Quattrochi had been released on bail from preventive detention by the Federal Court in Argentina, with the condition that he would not leave Argentina but this would have no bearing on the extradition proceedings being initiated by the Government. The request of the extradition, he said, was being processed with utmost urgency and a CBI team was scheduled to reach Buenos Aires well before the expiry of the stipulated thirty days time. He assured the House that the UPA Government was fully committed to the autonomy of the CBI and would render all possible assistance for the performance of its functions.

Statement regarding successful launch of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C8): On 3 May 2007, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Shri Prithviraj Chavan made a Statement in the House on the subject and said that India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, (PSLV-C8) was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on 23 April 2007. He informed the House that the mission launched the AGILE satellite of the Italian Space Agency and an Advanced Avionics Module (AAM) of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It was the first time that a PSLV Mission had carried and placed in orbit a primary satellite of commercial nature belonging to an international party. The current PSLV-C8 without the use of six solid straps on motors was the first flight of the PSLV with such a configuration and was developed so as to provide for lower satellite launch mass requirements in a cost effective manner. The PSLV, he said, had emerged as the workhouse launch vehicle of ISRO with ten consecutive successful flights. The present mission demonstrated its reliability and versatility to launch the satellites in various types of orbits as well as to carry out multiple satellite missions. He congratulated the entire ISRO team involved in the realization and management of the mission.

Discussion on the working of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare: A discussion on the working of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare took place in the House on 9 May 2007.

Initiating the discussion, Smt. Brinda Karat of the CPI (M) said that health is a fundamental human right and the attainment of the highest possible level of health is the most important social goal whose

realization requires the action of many other social and economic sectors, in addition to the health sector. She referred to the Qureshi Report and urged the Government to take action against the management of the private hospitals which were not ensuring that the thirty per cent of the beds were reserved for the poor. She appealed to the Minister to assure in the House that the autonomy of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences would be preserved. She informed the House that the country's expenditure on health was amongst the lowest in the world and the maternal mortality rate was very high. Her party, she said, welcomed the National Rural Health Mission. The Mission indeed was essential to bridge the rural-urban gap, but at the same time the urban health schemes and systems should not be marginalized. Referring to the Drug Control Authority, she suggested that a monitoring Committee be set up to bring transparency in its functioning.

Participating in the discussion,* Shri C. Perumal (AIADMK) said that many of the health programmes of the Government were not functioning effectively. It was the need of the hour that the Government employed the modern technologies to contain the diseases such as Malaria, which had claimed 1,140 lives in the year 2006. He urged the Government to have a disaster management, especially for the communicable diseases in order to take action on a war-footing basis and also to advance action prior to spreading of the disease from one area to another. He enquired whether the Government was considering to introduce a stringent law on the conduct of clinical trials. He also stressed upon the popularisation of yoga and Indian systems of medicine.

Dr. K. Kasturirangan (Nominated) said that the need for increased investment in medical research was appreciated across the world. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a Government funded research organisation had a major role to play because the type of research it could undertake was more related to the tropical region, which addressed the poor and the most vulnerable part of the population. He believed that the public-private partnership was an important step in the creation of additional autonomy to the functioning of the area of medical research. He also suggested that the institutional mechanisms should be given a serious thought so that the research component was strengthened

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri S.S. Ahluwalia, Rajniti Prasad, Uday Pratap Singh, Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy, V. Narayanasamy, Syed Azeez Pasha, Harendra Singh Malik, Jai Parkash Aggarwal, Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania and Dr. (Smt.) Prabha Thakur

and encouraged as part of the medical research programme.

Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan (INC) said that the State Governments were not concentrating on the programmes of the National Rural Health Mission due to their financial constraints. He emphasized the need for compulsory health insurance for every citizen below the poverty line. He urged that the recommendations of the Thorat Committee Report be implemented so that there was no discrimination against the different communities in the country.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss said that the Ministry's main focus was to reduce the maternal mortality rate. He stated that there had been a steady decline in the total spending on health in case of the States and they had been asked to increase their spending in the health sector. The outlay for health in the year 2003-2004 was Rs.6,625 crore which had been increased to Rs.14,363 crore in the current financial year.

The National Rural Health Mission, he said, was a seven-year mission programme and the basic unit was Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA). All the sub-centres, the Primary Health Centres, the community health centres and the district headquarters hospitals were being modernised and improved. Initially, a mobile medical unit was being given to each district. Referring to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Minister informed the House that efforts were being made to make it a separate Department in the Health Ministry with more budgetary allocation. Speaking about the Integrated Disease Surveillance Project, he stated that it was a World Bank funded project and its implementation would include the entire country's networking as a result of which the State Government and the Central Government would be notified about the outbreak of any disease within six to eight hours and thus immediate action would be initiated. The Progamme of *Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana* (PMSSY) envisaged six new AIIMS–like institutions in the next three years and the upgradation of thirteen existing institutes. He further said that the Government would introduce the Clinical Establishment Regulation and Registration Act, 2006 to regulate all the hospitals including the private and the public hospitals in the country.

Replying to the queries raised by the members, the Minister said that the Government was giving ample funds to the State Governments to start nursing colleges and to upgrade the nursing schools into colleges. As regards the issue of clinical trials, he said that a National Ethical

Committee had been instituted to initiate severe action in case any adverse drug reaction due to the trials was noted. The Minister said that nobody was going to be coerced or forced into any of the population stabilisation procedures and methods; rather awareness would be created for the same. The Minister further stated that a National Drug Authority was being set up by introducing a Bill. He said that a lot of awareness had to be created with regard to the early detection of cancer and Rs. 2,900 crore were to be allocated for the cancer programme in the Eleventh Plan. The Government was also trying to propagate stem cell therapy. He clarified that the authority to grant permission to start a medical college vested in the Government of India only.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The National Institutes of Technology Bill, 2006:* On 21 March 2007, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Smt. D. Purandeswari moved the motion for consideration of the Bill in the House.

As mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, in the early sixties, seventeen Regional Engineering Colleges were set up in the country with a view to providing the required technical manpower for the industrial projects which were functioning as the Societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and were affiliated to the respective State Universities. A High Power Review Committee, constituted by the Central Government had submitted its report in 1998 and had *inter alia* recommended that the Regional Engineering Colleges be empowered through an enactment of Parliament to award degrees. The Committee had further recommended that the demand for setting up new Regional Engineering Colleges be examined on a case to case basis.

The Central Government had decided to convert all the seventeen Regional Engineering colleges into National Institutes of Technology with the status of Deemed University and provide hundred per cent assistance from the Central Government for the year 2003-2004 onwards. Later, Bihar College of Engineering, Patna, Raipur Engineering College, Raipur and Tripura Engineering College, Agartala were converted and

* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 22 May 2006

notified as National Institute of Technology in the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively. As such, twenty National Institutes were to be empowered through an enactment. The Bill, *inter alia*, proposed that a law be enacted to declare all these twenty institutions as Institutes of national importance; retain the individuality of the Institutes, make provisions for co-ordination and regulation of the affairs of these institutes; and empower them to grant degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions*.

The motion for the consideration of the Bill, clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

*The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2007***:* On 15 May 2007, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi moved the motion for consideration of the Bill in the House. The Bill sought to make it compulsory for every cable operator to retransmit channels transmitted by Parliament of India in the manner and the name as specified by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Saman Pathak (CPI-M) said that due to the monopoly market of cable operators, the importance of Doordarshan and regional channels was declining. It was necessary that national feelings, good culture and educational programmes were promoted.

The motion for the consideration of the Bill, clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

*The Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2007****:* On 17 May 2007, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambram moved the motion for consideration of the Bill in the House. As mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, securitisation is a form of financing involving pooling of financial assets and the issuance of securities that are re-paid from the cash inflows generated by the assets and is generally accomplished by actual sale of the assets to a bankruptcy remote vehicle, that is, a special purpose vehicle, which finances the purchase through the issuance of bonds. The bonds are backed by future cash flows of the asset pool comprising of mortgages, credit

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* Excerpts from Objects and Reasons of the Bill

** The Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 4 May 2007

*** The Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha was laid on the Table on 16 May 2007

cards, auto and consumer loans, student loans, corporate debt, export receivables, off-shore remittances, etc.

Keeping in view the potential of the market, international trends and consultations held with major institutional participants and market experts, it was decided to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 and accordingly, the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2005 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 16 December 2005. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance on 23 December 2005 for examination and report thereon. The Committee presented its report to the Lok Sabha on 22 May 2006. The Committee, in its report, recognised the need for listing and trading of securities certificates or instruments on the Stock Exchanges and expressed their agreement with the broad objectives of the proposals contained in the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2005. However, it recommended a modified approach for regulation and development of the market for such instruments. As the approach recommended by the Committee and agreed to by the Government were different from the provisions in the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2005, it was proposed to withdraw the said Bill and to move a revised Bill, *viz.*, the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2006 to amend the principal act*.

Participating in the discussion,** Shri P.G. Narayanan (AIADMK) said that the Bill provided a mechanism to enable the banks to pool various types of loans and issue bonds called Securitisation Certificates. The Bill included such certificates in the definition of securities as a result of which they could also be traded in the stock markets.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambram said that the Report of the Standing Committee had been accepted in toto. He said that an active securities market would be created and the securities would be traded. He added that when the securities are listed abroad, the investors abroad would also buy those securities and the risk confined to India would spread to other countries. The minimized risk was good for the country. The Stock Exchange Board of India (SEBI) would frame the regulations regarding the governing

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* Excerpt from Objects and Reasons of the Bill. The Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 15 December 2006 and was passed on 14 May 2007

** Those who took part in the discussion were Sarvashri S.S. Ahluwalia, Amar Singh, Rajeev Shukla and Moinul Hassan

and trading of security instruments. Informing about the students' loan, the Minister said that the number and the amount of students' loan had increased manifold.

The motion for consideration of the Bill, and clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the Session, 12,190 notices of Questions (10,436 Starred and 1,754 Unstarred) were received. Out of these, 619 Questions were admitted as Starred and 4,740 as Unstarred. The total number of notices of Questions received in Hindi was 3,063.

Daily average of Questions: For all days, the list of Starred Questions contained 20 Questions except on 20 March 2007 which had 19 Questions. On an average, 1.85 Questions were orally answered per sitting. The maximum number of Questions orally answered was six on 14 March, 27 April and 17 May 2007 and the minimum number of Questions orally answered was two on 16 May 2007.

The list of Unstarred Questions contained 130 Questions on 26 and 27 February 2007 and 141 Questions on 5 March 2007. On the rest of the days, it contained 155 Questions each.

Half-an-Hour Discussion: In all, nine notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received, out of these one was admitted and discussed.

Short Notice Questions: In all, seven Short Notice Questions were received. However, none was admitted.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Chittabrata Majumdar and Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, both sitting members and Sarvashri Hokishe Sema and Sawaisingh Sisodia, both former members. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

STATE LEGISLATURES

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Fifth Goa Legislative Assembly which commenced its First Session on 15 June 2007 was adjourned *sine die* on the same day. The Governor prorogued the House on 20 June 2007. (The General Elections to the Fifth Goa Legislative Assembly were held earlier on 2 June 2007 and the results declared on 5 June 2007)

Speaker Pro-tem: Shri Aleixo Sequeira was appointed Speaker *Pro-tem.* All the newly elected MLAs to the Fifth Legislative Assembly took oath/affirmation on 15 June 2007.

Election of Speaker: On 15 June 2007, Shri Pratapsingh Raoji Rane was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

The Maharashtra Legislative Council, which commenced its First Session of the year 2007 on 14 March 2007 was prorogued by the Governor on 17 April 2007. There were 21 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Maharashtra Shri S.M. Krishna addressed the Joint Sitting of both the Houses on 14 March 2007. A copy of the Governor's address was laid on the Table of the House on the same day. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved and adopted by the House without any amendment.

Legislative Business: During the Session, the Mumbai Primary Education and the Maharashtra Private Schools Employees (Conditions of Service) Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2007 was introduced, considered and passed by the House.

The following Bills, as passed by the State Legislative Assembly, were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Maharashtra Ownership Flats (Regulation of the Promotion of Construction, Sale, Management and Transfer) (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (ii) The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (iii) The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (iv) The Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation and the Konkan Irrigation Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (v) The Maharashtra Government Servants Regulation of Transfer and Prevention of Delay in Discharge of Official

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* Material contributed by the Goa Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislative Council Secretariat

Duties (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (vi) The Maharashtra State Public Enterprises (Reconstruction and other Special Provisions) (Repeal) Bill, 2007; (vii) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation and the Mumbai Regional Municipal Corporation (Temporary Amendment) Bill, 2007; (viii) The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (ix) The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (x) The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2007; and (xi) The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

The following Bills as passed by the State Legislative Assembly were considered by the House: (i) The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2007; (ii) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2007; (iii) The Maharashtra State Tax on Professions, Trades Callings and Employment and the Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007; and (iv) The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2007.

Financial business: The Minister of State for Finance Shri Sunil Punjabrao Deshmukh presented the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 2006-2007 to the House on 14 March 2007. The discussion on the Supplementary Demands for the year 2006-2007 was held on 23 and 24 March 2007.

The Minister of State for Finance presented the Budget for the year 2007-2008 on 22 March 2007. The General Discussion on the Budget was held on 26 and 28 March 2007.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Sadananda Shankar Varde and Shrimati Pramila Bhanushankar Yagnik, both former members of the State Legislative Council and Dr. Punjabrao Gunvantrao Deshmukh, former Minister and member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. Tributes were also paid to freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukh Dev and Rajguru, on the occasion of completion of seventy-five years of their martyrdom.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly commenced its First Session of the year 2007 also known as the Budget Session on 14 March 2007. The Governor prorogued the House on 17 April 2007. There were 21 sittings in all.

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* Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Maharashtra addressed members of both the Houses on 14 March 2007. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved in the House on the same day. The discussion on the Motion was held on 16 and 17 March 2007. The House adopted the Motion without any amendment on 17 March 2007.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following 16 Bills were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (ii) The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (iii) The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (iv) The Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation and the Konkan Irrigation Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (v) The Maharashtra Government Servants Regulation of Transfers and Prevention of Delay in Discharge of Official Duties (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (vi) The Maharashtra State Enterprises (Restructuring and Other Special Provisions) (Repeal) Bill, 2007; (vii) The Maharashtra State Tax on Professions, Trades Callings and Employments and the Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (viii) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation and the Bombay Provincial Municipal Corporation (Temporary Amendment) Bill, 2007; (ix) The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2007; (x) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2007; (xi) The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (xii) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (xiii) The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (xiv) The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (xv) The Bombay Primary Education and the Maharashtra Employees of Private Schools (Conditions of Service) Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2007; and (xvi) The Maharashtra Ownership Flats (Regulation of the Promotion of Construction, Sale, Management and Transfer) (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

Financial business: The Minister of Finance presented the Supplementary Demands for the year 2006-2007 on 14 March 2007. The discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands of five Departments were held on 23 and 24 March 2007.

A total of 60 Cut Motions were received, out of which 33 were admitted, while 27 were disallowed. No Cut Motion was moved in the House.

The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2007 was passed by the House on 24 March 2007.

The Minister of Finance presented to the House the Budget for the year 2007-2008 on 22 March 2007. The general discussion on the Budget was held on 26 and 28 March 2007. The Minister replied to the discussion on 29 March 2007.

The discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants were held on 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, and 12 April 2007. In all, 177 Demands for Grants of the Budget were passed by the House. The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2007 was passed by the House on 12 April 2007.

A total of 3,476 Cut-Motions were received, out of which 3,286 were admitted, while the rest were disallowed. No Cut Motion was moved in the House.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of all former members of the State Legislative Assembly. Tributes were also paid to freedom fighters, Sarvashri Bhagat Singh, Sukh Dev and Rajguru, on the 75th anniversary of their martyrdom.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Second Part of the First Session of the Ninth Manipur Legislative Assembly which commenced on 3 May 2007, was adjourned *sine die* on 22 May 2007. There were 16 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Manipur, Dr. Shivinder Singh Sidhu had addressed members of the Assembly on 16 March 2007. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was moved by Shri N. Mangi Singh and seconded by Dr. Kh. Loken Singh. The discussion on the Motion was held on 3 and 4 May 2007. The Motion was adopted by the House.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following five Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House: (i) The Manipur Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2007; (ii) The Manipur Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2007; The Electricity (Manipur Amendment) Bill, 2007; The Manipur Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Second Amendment Bill, 2007; and The Manipur Loktak Lake (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2007.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Th. Navakumar Singh and Shri Ng. Luikang, both former members of the State Legislative Assembly.

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* Material contributed by the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

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APPENDIX I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE TENTH SESSION OF THE FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	23 February 2007 to 20 March 2007 26 April 2007 to 17 May 2007
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	32
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	119 hours and 32 minutes
4.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	27
	(ii) Introduced	19
	(iii) Laid on the Table, as passed by Rajya Sabha	2
	(iv) Reported by Standing Committee	5
	(v) Referred to Departmentally-Related Standing Committees by Speaker, Lok Sabha/Chairman, Rajya Sabha	4
	(vi) Discussed	22
	(vii) Passed	22
	(viii) Returned by Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	8
	(ix) Pending at the end of the Session	26
5.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	202
	(ii) Introduced	14
	(iii) Discussed	2
	(iv) Passed	Nil
	(v) Withdrawn	1
	(vi) Part-discussed	1
	(vii) Pending at the end of the Session	215
6.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSION HELD UNDER RULE 184	
	(i) Notices received	894
	(ii) Admitted	278
	(iii) Discussed	Nil
7.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	324
8.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR	156

9.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
	(i) Notices received	417
	(ii) Admitted	6
	(iii) Discussions held	3
	(iv) Part-discussed	1
10.	NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 (Calling attention to matters of Urgent Public Importance)	3
11.	STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372	57 (Including 6 by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs)
12.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	37
	(ii) Admitted	3
	(iii) Moved	1
	(iv) Adopted	Nil
	(v) Negatived	1
13.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	2
	(ii) Admitted	2
	(iii) Moved	1
	(iv) Adopted	1
14.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Received	11
	(ii) Admitted	10
	(iii) Discussed	1
	(iv) Adopted	Nil
	(v) Part-discussed	1
15.	NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS	
	(i) Total number of Notices received	12
	(ii) Brought before the House	Nil
	(iii) Consent withheld by the Speaker, Lok Sabha outside the House	12
16.	NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE(S) CONSTITUTED, IF ANY DURING THE SESSION	4
17.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	15,066 passes
18.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	1,147 passes issued on 3 May 2007

19. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED

(i)	Starred	621
(ii)	Unstarred	5,928
(iii)	Short Notice Questions	Nil
(iv)	Half-an-Hour discussions	Nil

20. PETITIONS PRESENTED 1

21. NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN-IN WITH DATE — 12 Members (One each on 2, 7 & 20 March and 14 May 2007, Six on 26 April 2007 and two on 15 May 2007)

22. NUMBER OF PRIVILEGE MOTIONS

(i)	Notices received	16
(ii)	Brought before the House	Nil

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period from 1 April to 30 June 2007	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	—	—
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House	—	—
iii)	Committee on Empowerment of Women	2	—
iv)	Committee on Estimates	3	—
v)	Committee on Ethics	—	—
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	—	—
vii)	Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	2	—
viii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	—	—
ix)	Committee on Petitions	—	—
x)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	2	2
xi)	Committee of Privileges	—	—
xii)	Committee on Public Accounts	6	7
xiii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	7	2
xiv)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	—	—
xv)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	3	1
xvi)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
xvii)	House Committee		
	a) Accommodation Sub-Committee	—	—

	b) Sub-Committee on Amenities	—	—
xviii)	Library Committee	—	—
xix)	Railway Convention Committee	3	1
xx)	Rules Committee	—	—
	JOINT / SELECT COMMITTEE		
i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	—	—
ii)	Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament	—	—
	DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES		
i)	Committee on Agriculture	—	—
ii)	Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	2	4
iii)	Committee on Coal & Steel	4	4
iv)	Committee on Defence	10	4
v)	Committee on Energy	5	2
vi)	Committee on External Affairs	5	2
vii)	Committee on Finance	11	6
viii)	Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	—	—
ix)	Committee on Information Technology	—	—
x)	Committee on Labour	—	—
xi)	Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas	4	2
xii)	Committee on Railways	9	1 (Original) 3 (Statements)
xiii)	Committee on Rural Development	—	—
xiv)	Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment	7	4
xv)	Committee on Urban Development	—	—
xvi)	Committee on Water Resources	7	1; 1 (Statement)

CELL ON PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Sl. No.	Name of Forum	No. of Meetings held during the period from 1 April to 30 June 2007
1.	Parliamentary Forum on Children	3
2.	Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management	4
3.	Parliamentary Forum on Youth	—
4.	Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health	—

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE TWO HUNDRED AND TENTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	23 February to 21 March 2007 and 26 April to 17 May 2007
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	31
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	88 Hours and 36 Minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	1
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	38
	(ii) Introduced	7
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Lok Sabha	19
	(iv) Returned by Lok Sabha with any amendment	Nil
	(v) Referred to Select Committee by Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vii) Referred to the Department-related Standing Committees	6
	(viii) Reported by Select Committee	Nil
	(ix) Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
	(x) Reported by the Department-related Standing Committees	5
	(xi) Discussed	20
	(xii) Passed	20
	(xiii) Withdrawn	Nil
	(xiv) Negatived	Nil
	(xv) Part-discussed	Nil
	(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	Nil
	(xvii) Discussion postponed	Nil
	(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session	45
6.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	154
	(ii) Introduced	25
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	Nil

(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table

(v) Reported by Joint Committee

(vi) Discussed

(vii) Withdrawn

(viii) Passed

(ix) Negatived

(x) Circulated for eliciting opinion

(xi) Part-discussed

(xii) Discussion postponed

(xiii) Motion for circulation of Bill negatived

(xiv) Referred to Select Committee

(xv) Lapsed due to retirement/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill

(xvi) Pending at the end of the Session

7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)

(i) Notices received

(ii) Admitted

(iii) Discussions held

8. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)

Statements made by Ministers

9. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD

10. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS

(i) Notices received

(ii) Admitted

(iii) Moved

(iv) Adopted

(v) Negatived

(vi) Withdrawn

11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS

(i) Notices received

(ii) Admitted

(iii) Moved

(iv) Adopted

12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

(i) Received

(ii) Admitted

(iii) Discussed

(iv) Withdrawn

	(vi) Negatived	—
	(vii) Adopted	—
	(vii) Part-discussed	1
	(viii) Discussion postponed	—
13.	GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	Nil
	(ii) Admitted	Nil
	(iii) Moved & discussed	Nil
	(iv) Adopted	Nil
	(v) Part-discussed	Nil
14.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
	(i) Received	261
	(ii) Admitted	340
	(iii) Moved	Nil
	(iv) Adopted	Nil
	(v) Part-discussed	Nil
	(vi) Negatived	Nil
	(vii) Withdrawn	Nil
15.	MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE	
	(i) Received	Nil
	(ii) Admitted	Nil
	(iii) Moved	Nil
	(iv) Adopted	Nil
	(v) Negatived	Nil
	(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
	(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
	(viii) Lapsed	Nil
16.	NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY	NIL
17.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	1,884
18.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	3,968
19.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	127 (on 15.3.2007)
20.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE	277 (on 9.3.2007)
21.	TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
	(i) Starred	619
	(ii) Unstarred	4,740
	(iii) Short-Notice Questions	Nil
22.	DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	1

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

	Name of Committee	No. of meetings held during the period 1 April to 30 June 2007	No. of Reports presented
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	3	Nil
(ii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	1	1
(iii)	Committee on Petitions	3	Nil
(iv)	Committee of Privileges	3	Nil
(v)	Committee on Rules	Nil	Nil
(vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	2	Nil
(vii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	2	Nil
(viii)	General Purposes Committee	Nil	Nil
(ix)	House Committee	2	Nil
Department-related Standing Committees:			
(x)	Commerce	6	2
(xi)	Home Affairs	8	2
(xii)	Human Resource Development	3	4
(xiii)	Industry	9	5
(xiv)	Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	6	7
(xv)	Transport, Tourism and Culture	7	10
(xvi)	Health & Family Welfare	4	2
(xvii)	Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	7	2
Other Committees			
(xviii)	Committee on Ethics	1	Nil
(xix)	Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha	Nil	Nil
(xx)	Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	1	Nil
(xxi)	Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Functioning of Wakf Boards	3	Nil
24.	NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE		4
25.	PETITIONS PRESENTED		Nil

26. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN-IN WITH DATES

Sl. No.	Name of Members sworn-in	Party Affiliation	Date on which sworn-in
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri Naresh Gujral	SAD	23.3.2007
2.	Dr. Ram Parkash	INC	3.4.2007
3.	Prof. M.S. Swaminathan	NOM.	26.4.2007

4.	Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan	NOM.	3.5.2007
5.	Shri Mohammed Amin	CPI(M)	5.6.2007
6.	Kumar Deepak Das	AGP	15.6.2007
7.	Dr. Manmohan Singh	INC	-do-

27. OBITUARY REFERENCES

Sl. No.	Name	Sitting Member/ Ex-Member
1.	Smt. Sumitra Mahajan	Sitting member
2.	Shri Chittabrata Majumdar	-do-
3.	Shri Hokishe Sema	Ex-Member
4.	Shri Sawaisingh Sisodia	-do-

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2007

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills	Private Bills	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Short Notice Questions
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A.	15.6.2007 and 16.7.2007 to 30.7.2007	10	1(1)	1	303(253)	173(201)@	—
Gujarat L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	530(385)	—
Haryana L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Madhya Pradesh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A.	3.5.2007 to 22.5.2007	16	5(5)	—	140(138)	9(9)	1(1)
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	1.6.2007 to 13.7.2007	24	4(3)	1	3377(2578)	3789(5167)@	9(1)
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand L.A.	27.6.2007 to 10.7.2007	8	6(5)	—	324(131)	–(280)	194(29)
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	21.5.2007 to 23.5.2007 and 17.6.2007 to 17.7.2007	18	22(22)	—	1710(127)	280(1166)@	590(446)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	21.5.2007 to 23.5.2007 and 27.6.2007 to —	6	–(13)	—	737(581)	50(119)	139(51)
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES							
Delhi L.A.	21.3.2007 to 23.4.2007	10	6(6)	—	169(169)	126(126)	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

@ Starred Questions and Short Notices admitted as Unstarred Questions

APPENDIX III (Contd.)

COMMITTEES AT WORK / NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2007

	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Government Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions	Committee of Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs	Committee on Estimates	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint/Select Committee	Other Committees
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
STATES																
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Assam L.A.	—	2	1	—	—	2	1	2	3	—	—	1	5	—	—	3[a]
Bihar L.A.	—	11(4)	47(6)	—	3	—	10	—	35	3	10	10	38	1	—	79[b]
Bihar L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh L.A.	—	4	2	—	—	4	2	4	5	—	2	1	3	—	—	8[c]
Goa L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.	—	2	—	—	1	1	1	5	1	—	2	1	5	—	—	7[d]
Haryana L.A.	—	18	18	—	18	16	23	14	14	—	2	17	15	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.	—	12	5	—	1	5	—	—	5	—	—	—	7	—	—	15[e]
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	—	9	10	2	9(1)	10	11	9	12	—	9	10	7	—	7	30[f]
Karnataka L.C.	—	14	8(1)	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	—	5	5	—	4	7	3	3	3	—	5	3	5	—	—	13[g]
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A.	3(3)	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	8[h]
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	7[i]
Orissa L.A.	4(4)	3	3	—	1	5(2)	5	3	6	—	3	4	7(8)	2	—	86(29)[j]
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.	—	2	4	—	—	1	1	6	1	—	1	—	9	—	—	—

Uttarakhand L.A.	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	4	5	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	42[a]
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																	
Delhi L.A.	1(1)	—	—	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

(a) Committee on Empowerment of Women and Children-1; Act Implementation Committee-1; and Committee on OBC and MOBC-1

(b) Tourism Development Committee-10; Woman and Child Welfare Committee-14; Members Fund Monitoring and Implementation Committee-9; Zero Hour Committee-10; Aachar Committee-3; Question and Calling Attention Committee-10; Internal Resources Committee-12; and Agricultural Development Industries Committee-11

(c) Question and Reference Committee-3; Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-3; and Women and Children Welfare Committee-2

(d) Members Pay and Allowance Rules Committee-1; Panchayati Raj Committee-2; Welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Committee-1; Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-2; and Committee on Absence of Members-1

(e) Committee on Environment-5; and House Committee to Look into the Appointments made and work executed from 1996 to 2005-10

(f) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-10; Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-10; and Committee on Backward Classes and Minorities-10

(g) Question and Reference Committee-4; Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-5; and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-4

(h) Hill Areas Committee-7; and Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-1

(i) Committee on Ethics-5; and Subject Committees-2

(j) Standing Committees (I to X)-62(27); Ethics Committee-2; Special Rules Committee-4(1); House Committee on Woman and Child Welfare-4; House Committee on Linguistic Minorities-1; House Committee on Environment-1; House Committee on Submissions-7(1); House

Committee on NGO-1; House Committee on Power Generation-1; House Committee on Cyclone and Flood-1; House Committee on Boundary Dispute-1; and House Committee on Jagannath Temple-1

(k) Committee on Reference and Question-4; Committee on Financial and Administrative Delays-5; Committee on Parliamentary Study-5; Committee on Enquiry of House Complaints of U.P. Legislature-6; Parliamentary and Social Welfare Committee-5; Committee on Control of Irregularities in Development Authorities, Housing Board, Zila Panchayats and Municipal Corporation-9; and Committee on Enquiry of Provincial Electricity Arangement-8

APPENDIX IV

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD FROM

1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2007

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of Assent
1	2	3
1.	The National Tax Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 2007	3.4.2007
2.	The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007	3.4.2007
3.	The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2007	10.5.2007
4.	The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2007	10.5.2007
5.	The Finance Bill, 2007	11.5.2007
6.	The National Rural Employment Guarantee (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Bill, 2007	11.5.2007
7.	The Mizoram University (Amendment) Bill, 2007	28.5.2007
8.	The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2007	28.5.2007
9.	The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2007	28.5.2007
10.	The Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2007	28.5.2007
11.	The Central Road Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2007	1.6.2007
12.	The National Institutes of Technology Bill, 2007	5.6.2007
13.	The State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks Laws) Amendment Bill, 2007	18.6.2007

APPENDIX V

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD

1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2007

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Goa Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2007

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Manipur Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2007
2. The Manipur Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2007
3. The Electricity (Manipur Amendment) Bill, 2007
4. The Manipur Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (For Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Second Amendment Bill, 2007
5. The Manipur Loktak Lake (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2007

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Orissa Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2007*
2. The Orissa Appropriation Bill, 2007
3. The Orissa Legislative Assembly Members Salary, Allowances & Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2007*

UTTARAKHAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Uttarakhand Appropriation Bill, 2007
2. The Uttarakhand (The Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950) (Adaptation and Modification Order, 2001) (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Uttarakhand District Planning Committee Bill, 2007
4. The Uttarakhand Panchayat Laws (First Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Uttarakhand Protection of Cow Progeny Bill, 2007
6. The Uttarakhand Police Bill, 2007*

UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The King George's Medical University (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007
2. The Uttar Pradesh Water Supply and Sewerage (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Uttar Pradesh King George's University of Dental Science (Repeal) Bill, 2007
4. The Uttar Pradesh Commission for Minorities (Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (Second Vote on Account) Bill, 2007
6. The Uttar Pradesh State Commission for Backward Classes (Amendment) Bill, 2007

7. The Uttar Pradesh Go Seva Ayog (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
8. The Uttar Pradesh State Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2007
9. The Uttar Pradesh Awas Evam Vikas Parishad (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
10. The Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission (Repeal) Bill, 2007
11. The Uttar Pradesh State Law Commission (Repeal) Bill, 2007
12. The Uttar Pradesh State Legislature (Residence of the Officers and Leader of Opposition) (Repeal) Bill, 2007
13. The Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Services Selection Board (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007
14. The Uttar Pradesh Sports (Registration, Recognition and Regulation of Association (Repeal) Bill, 2007
15. The Uttar Pradesh State Commission for Women (Amendment) Bill, 2007
16. The Uttar Pradesh Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Bill, 2007*
17. The Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Services Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2007*
18. The Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2007
19. The Uttar Pradesh Krishi Utpadan Mandi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007*
20. The Uttar Pradesh Technical University (Amendment) Bill, 2007
21. The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2007
22. The Uttar Pradesh Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samajik Parivartan Sthal (Protection and Maintenance) Bill, 2007*

UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Mohammad Ali Jauhar University (Amendment) Bill, 2007
2. The King George's Medical University (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007

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* Bills awaiting assent

APPENDIX VI

ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD

1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2007

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks
		UNION GOVERNMENT			
1.	The State Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	21.6.2007	—	—	—
		ARUNACHAL PRADESH			
1.	The Arunachal Pradesh Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, 2007	18.04.2007	—	—	—
		GOA			
1.	The Goa Tax on Infrastructure (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006	19.3.2007	17.7.2007	—	—
		MADHYA PRADESH			
1.	The Nyayalaya Fees (Madhya Pradesh Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	18.4.2007	—	—	—

2.	The Madhya Pradesh Niji Vyasvsayik Sikshan Sanstha (Pravesh ka Vinimaya evam Shulk ka Nirdharan) Adhyadesh, 2007	22.5.2007	—	—	—
3	The Madhya Pradesh Sthaniya kshetra (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	27.6.2007	—	—	—
			UTTARAKHAND		
1.	The Uttarakhand (The Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950) (Adaptation and Modification Order, 2001) Amendment, Ordinance, 2007	10.5.2007	27.6.2007	13.07.2007	Replaced by Legislation
			UTTAR PRADESH		
1.	The Uttar Pradesh Technical University (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	2.6.2007	27.6.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Uttar Pradesh King George's University of Dental Science (Repeal) Ordinance, 2007	2.6.2007	27.6.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The King George's Medical University (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	2.6.2007	27.6.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
4.	The Uttar Pradesh State Law Commission (Repeal) Ordinance, 2007	2.6.2007	27.6.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation

5.	The Uttar Pradesh State Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	2.6.2007	27.6.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
6.	The Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission (Repeal) Ordinance, 2007	2.6.2007	27.6.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
7.	The Uttar Pradesh State Legislature (Residences of the Officers and Leader of Opposition) (Repeal) Ordinance, 2007	2.6.2007	27.6.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
8.	The Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Services Selection Board (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	15.6.2007	27.6.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
9.	The Uttar Pradesh Awas Evam Vikas Parishad (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	15.6.2007	27.6.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
10.	The Uttar Pradesh Commission for Minorities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	15.6.2007	27.6.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
11.	The Uttar Pradesh Sports (Registration, Recognition and Regulation of Association (Repeal) Ordinance, 2007	15.6.2007	27.6.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
12.	The Uttar Pradesh Go Seva Ayog (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	15.6.2007	27.6.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
13.	The Uttar Pradesh State Commission for Backward Classes (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	15.6.2007	27.6.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation

14.	The Uttar Pradesh State Commission for Women (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	15.06.2007	27.06.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
15.	The Uttar Pradesh Water Supply and Sewerage (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	15.06.2007	27.6.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
16.	The Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Services Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	15.6.2007	27.6.2007	7.8.2007	Replaced by Legislation
17.	The Uttar Pradesh Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	16.6.2007	27.6.2007	7.8.2007	Replaced by Legislation

APPENDIX VII

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 1 AUGUST 2007)

States	No. of Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	SP	RJD	BSP	DMK	SS	BJD	CPI	NCP	JD(U)	SAD	PMK	JMM	TRS	TDP	MDMK	LJSP	AIFB
Andhra Pradesh	42	30	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	14	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	40	3	5	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	11	2	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Goa	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	26	12	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	10	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	14	6	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	28	9	16	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala	20	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	29	4	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	48	13	12	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	21	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	13	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	25	4	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	39	10	—	2	—	—	—	16	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	4	—	—
Tripura	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand	5	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	80	9	10	—	36	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	42	6	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nominated	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
UNION TERRITORIES																					
A & N Islands	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The NCT of Delhi	7	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	545	150	131	43	38	24	18	16	12	11	10	11	7	8	6	4	5	4	4	4	3

APPENDIX VII (CONTD.)

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 1 AUGUST 2007)

States	JD(S)	RLD	RSP	AGP	J&K NC	KC	AIM IM	AITC	BNP	J&K PDP	MNF	MLK SC	NPF	NLP	RPI (A)	SDF	IND	TOTAL	VACAN-CIES
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Assam	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	—
Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	1
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—
Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	13	1
Karnataka	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—
Kerala	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	20	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	1
Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	48	—
Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—
Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—
Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—
Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	79	1
West Bengal	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Nominated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
UNION TERRITORIES																			
A & N Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
The NCT of Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	540	5

Abbreviations used in respect of parties represented in the Lok Sabha:

AGP-Asom Gana Parishad; AIFB-All India Forward Bloc; AIMIM-All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen; AITC-All India Trinamool Congress; BJD-Biju Janata Dal; BJP-Bharatiya Janata Party; BNP-Bharatiya Navshakti Party; BSP-Bahujan Samaj Party; CPI(M)-Communist Party of India (Marxist); CPI-Communist Party of India; DMK-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; INC-Indian National Congress; IND-Independents; J&KPDP- Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party; J&KNC-Jammu & Kashmir National Conference; JD(S)-Janata Dal (Secular); JD(U)-Janata Dal (United); JMM-Jharkhand Mukti Morcha; KC-Kerala Congress; LJSP-Lok Jan Shakti Party; MDMK-Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; MLKSC-Muslim League Kerala State Committee; MNF-Mizo National Front; NCP-Nationalist Congress Party; NLP-National Loktantrik Party; NPF-Nagaland Peoples Front; PMK-Pattali Makkal Katchi; RJD-Rashtriya Janata Dal; RLD-Rashtriya Lok Dal; RPI(A)-Republican Party of India(A); RSP-Revolutionary Socialist Party; SAD-Shiromani Akali Dal; SDF-Sikkim Democratic Front; SJP(R)-Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya); SP-Samajwadi Party; SS-Shiv Sena; TDP-Telugu Desam Party; TRS-Telangana Rashtra Samithi

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (AS ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2007)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	SP	CPI (M)	AIA-DMK	RJD	TDP	BSP	NCP	JD(U)	*Others	IND	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
STATES																
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	10	—	—	1	—	—	6	—	—	—	1[a]	—	18	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
3.	Assam	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[b]	1	7	—
4.	Bihar	16	1	3	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	4	1[c]	—	16	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
6.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
7.	Gujarat	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
8.	Haryana	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[d]	1	5	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[e]	—	4	—
11.	Jharkhand	6	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	—
12.	Karnataka	12	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[f]	2	12	—
13.	Kerala	9	4	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[g]	—	9	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
15.	Maharashtra	19	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	5[h]	2	19	—
16.	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Meghalaya	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
18.	Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[i]	—	1	—
19.	Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[j]	—	1	—
20.	Orissa	10	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4[k]	1	10	—
21.	Punjab	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3[l]	—	7	—
22.	Rajasthan	10	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
23.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[m]	—	1	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	18	3	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	5[n]	—	18	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
25.	Tripura	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
26.	Uttarakhand	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	31	1	6	16	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	2[p]	—	30	1
28.	West Bengal	16	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	6[p]	1	16	—
UNION TERRITORIES																
29.	NCT of Delhi	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
30.	Puducherry	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
31.	Nominated	12	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9[q]	—	12	—
	TOTAL	245	72	48	16	14	10	7	6	5	5	5	48	8	244	1

OTHERS

(Break-up of Parties/Groups)

(a) Communist Party of India-1
(b) Asom Gana Parishad-1
(c) Samata Party-1
(d) Indian National Lok Dal-2
(e) Jammu and Kashmir National Conference-1; and Peoples' Democratic Party-1
(f) Janata Dal (Secular)-2
(g) Muslim League-1; Communist Party of India-1
(h) Shiv Sena-4; and Sadbhavana Party-1
(i) Mizo National Front-1
(j) Nagaland Peoples Front-1
(k) Biju Janata Dal-4
(l) Shiromani Akali Dal-3
(m) Sikkim Democratic Front-1
(n) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-3; and Pattali Makkal Katchi-1; and Communist Party of India-1
(o) Rashtriya Lok Dal-1; and Expelled from Bahujan Samaj Party-1
(p) All India Trinamool Congress-3; Forward Bloc-2; and Revolutionary Socialist Party-1
(q) Nominated-9

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE / UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATURES

State/Union territories	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI(M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Ind.	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A. (1.8.2007)	60	41	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	3[a]	14	60	—
Assam L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A. (9.8.2007)	243	8	55	3	1	1	4	88	—	72[b]	10	242*	—
Bihar L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh L.A. (1.8.2007)	91	34	53	—	—	1	1	—	—	1[c]	—	90	1
Goa L.A. (7.6.2007)	40	16	14	—	—	3	—	—	—	5[d]	2	40	—
Gujarat L.A. (1.8.2007)	182	48	130	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	182	—
Haryana L.A. (1.8.2007)	90	66	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	9[e]	10	89*	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A. (1.8.2007)	88	20	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	50[f]	14	88	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A. (8.5.2007)	225	64	79	1	—	—	—	5	57	4[g]	13	224*	1
Karnataka L.C. (21.6.2007)	75	34	14	—	—	—	—	3	14	—	4	69*	5

Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A. (1.8.2007)	231	39	170	1	—	1	2	1	—	13[h]	2	230[e]	1
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A. (30.6.2007)	60	31	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	11[f]	10	60	—
Meghalaya L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A. (1.8.2007)	60	17	5	—	—	—	—	2	—	32[g]	4	60	—
Orissa L.A. (1.8.2007)	147	38	32	1	1	—	—	—	—	67[h]	8	147	—
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A. (1.8.2007)	32	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31[f]	—	32	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A. (1.8.2007)	60	13	—	38	1	—	—	—	—	8[m]	—	60	—
Uttarakhand L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A. (1.8.2007)	403	22	51	—	—	—	209	—	—	108[m]	9	400	3
Uttar Pradesh L.C. (1.8.2007)	100	3	24	—	—	—	14	—	—	54[e]	4	99	1
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORY													
Delhi L.A. (1.5.2007)	70	47	20	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	70	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

@ Excluding Speaker/Chairman

a) Arunachal Congress-2; and Unattached-1

b) Rashtriya Janata Dal-54; Lok Jan Shakti Party-10; Communist Party of India (ML)-5; Samajwadi Party-2; and Akhil Jan Vikas Dal-1

c) Nominated-1

d) United Goans Democratic Party-1; Save Goa Front-2; and Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party-2

e) Indian National Lok Dal-9

f) National Conference-24; People's Democratic Party-17; National Panthers Party-4; Awami League-1; Democratic Movement-1; Jammu State Morcha-1; and Nominated-2

g) Kannada Chalavali Vatal Paksha-1; Kannada Naadu Paksha-1; Republican Party of India-1; and Nominated-1

h) Samajwadi Party-7; Gondwana Gantantra Party-3; Rashtriya Samanta Dal-2; and Nominated-1

i) Manipur Peoples' Party-5; Rashtriya Janata Dal-3; and National Peoples' Party-3

j) Nagaland Peoples Front-32

k) Biju Janata Dal-61; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-4; and Orissa Gana Parishad-2

l) Sikkim Democratic Front-31

m) Revolutionary Socialist Party-2; and Indigenous Nationalist Party of Twipra-6

n) Samajwadi Party-94; Rashtriya Lok Dal-10; Rashtriya Parivartan Dal-2; Jan Morcha-1; and Rashtriya Swabhimaan Party-1

o) Samajwadi Party-38; Rashtriya Lok Dal-6; Samajwadi Janata Dal (Rashtriya)-1; and Sikchhak Dal (Non-Political)-9

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